FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 OCTOBER 1983

Lebanon

U.S., French Headquarters Bombings — Two massive and almost simultaneous explosions demolished the U.S. and French military headquarters in Beirut early on 23 October, killing at least 162 U.S. Marines and 41 French soldiers, Beirut radio reported. Around 100 Marines and 14 Frenchmen were injured in the explosions and rescue teams came under sniper fire as they worked throughout the day to evacuate the dead and wounded from the rubble, according to the radio. The attack on the U.S. command at Beirut International Airport was perpetrated by a truck that sped toward the building and detonated around 900 kg of explosives, Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios reported citing a Marine spokesman. The French headquarters was subjected to a similar attack, Voice of Lebanon said.

Beirut airport remained open in spite of the bombings and both French Defense Minister Charles Hernu and President Francois Mitterrand flew into Beirut in the aftermath of the attacks, according to Beirut radio. After arriving "unexpectedly" aboard a military plane on 24 October, Mitterrand inspected the site of the explosion at the French headquarters and held talks with President Amin al-Jumayyil, the radio noted.

Responsibility Claim, Allegations — A previously unknown group called the Free Islamic Revolutionary Movement claimed responsibility for the bomb attacks in a telephone call reported by AFP. The caller stated that the movement pursues a "Greater Syria" that would support the return of the Palestinians to Palestine, the "liberation of Lebanon from imperialist and isolationist forces," and the "strengthening of the Muslim revolution in the Arab world." Meanwhile, Jerusalem radio viewed the attacks as a Syrian attempt to force the Multinational Force out of Lebanon, adding that "it can be assumed" that the attack was staged by "extreme Shi'ites" from Husayn al-Musawi's Islamic Amal Movement. Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Iranian and Syrian intelligence officers met at the Iranian Embassy in Beirut "10 days ago" to plan "acts of terrorism" against the U.S. Marines. In another report the radio noted the arrival "this week" of Syrian intelligence officers in Beirut to undertake specific tasks.

Reaction — An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman "denied" the secretary of defense's allegations of Iranian involvement in the attack, stating that U.S. authorities are "incapable of correctly assessing" the Lebanese people's resistance and are trying to "divert" international public opinion from their "consecutive defeats" in Lebanon, according to Tehran radio. IRNA commented that the United States is trying to exploit the bombing to conspire against Iran and said the United States is blaming Iran in order to prepare for a military crisis in the Gulf and an expanded U.S. military presence in the area. In the first official Syrian comment, Syria's ambassador to the United States said the attacks "do not serve Syrian objectives" in Lebanon and expressed deep regret over the deaths of the Marines, Radio Monte Carlo reported. Damascus radio and television limited their coverage of the "horrific explosions" to factual reportage citing foreign official statements and media.

Walid Junblatt, leader of Lebanon's Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), also denied involvement, stating in a telephone statement to Paris Radio that he had "nothing to do with this" and that the only way out of the current situation is to find a stable and genuine political solution. He added that the withdrawal of the French force in Lebanon would be "disastrous," but noted that the American presence "is another matter."

Meanwhile, a Lebanese Cabinet statement reported by Beirut radio noted that after a series of meetings and contacts the Cabinet held an extraordinary session to discuss the "crime" and the ensuing "great tragedy." Following the session, President al-Jumayyil sent messages to the French and U.S. presidents expressing his and the Lebanese nation's condolences, the radio reported. Beirut radio also noted that Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri had made statements denouncing the bombings. For its part, Voice of Lebanon radio also reported denunciations and expressions of condolences to the United States and France by Phalange Party leader Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil, former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam, and former Prime Minister Rashid Karami.

Reacting to the bomb attack on the French contingent, Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy affirmed that the French contingent will remain in Lebanon, according to AFP. On the other hand, External Affairs Minister Claude Cheysson, cited by AFP, said France will "reexamine" whether or not French forces are truly necessary in Lebanon, while Defense Minister Hernu stated in Beirut that he did not believe that the time was appropriate for discussion of French withdrawal, adding that he believes the French presence "has a significance," according to Beirut radio.

Israel is prepared to put "any help required" at the disposal of the United States or France, Jerusalem radio reported, and ITIM reported that IDF units in Lebanon have stepped up their alert following the bonb blasts. President Hayim Herzog, Defense Minister Moshe Arens, and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir expressed their condolences to the United States and France, according to the same sources.

Tripoli radio stated that the bombing was the Lebanese patriotic and progressive forces' "direct answer" to the U.S. "big stick" policy in Lebanon.

Under the headline "Israel's Violence Is the Cause of the Tragedy," the Egyptian newspaper *Al-Jumhuriyah* declared that this event "must not divert" the Arabs' attention from the "reality of the reason" for the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, according to Cairo radio. Similarly, WAKH cited Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Muhammad Yusuf al-'Adsani and Foreign Affairs Ministry Under Secretary Rashid 'Abdallah ar-Rashid as shar-

ing the view that the United States "is reaping what Israel sowed" and is responsible because of its approval of Israel's acts in Lebanon. Meanwhile, the Saudi ambassador to the United States expressed Saudi Arabia's "strongest indignation" at the "terrorist and destructive" acts in Beirut, SPA reported.

Other Political, Military Developments — The National Dialogue Conference will begin at the Intercontinental Hotel in Geneva on 31 October, according to a Lebanese source cited by Radio Monte Carlo. PSP leader Junblatt had earlier stipulated that the talks should be in a hotel rather than in the Lebanese Embassy, SANA reported.

Meanwhile, Lebanese Army positions around Beirut came under fire both before and after the explosions at the U.S. and French buildings, according to Beirut radio. In southern Lebanon, one Israeli soldier was injured and three local residents were killed when an IDF patrol clashed with rioters in As-Sarafand, the IDF spokesman announced on 23 October in a statement carried by ITIM. The villagers were protesting arrests of local inhabitants by the Israelis and the IDF "siege" of the village, according to Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation — Iraq launched six surface-to-surface missiles against the Iranian towns of Dezful and Masjed Soleyman on 22 October, killing 145 people, wounding 500 others, and damaging "hundreds" of buildings, Tehran radio reported. Confirming the attack, an Iraqi military spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio that Iraqi missile batteries had directed "deterrent strikes" at selected Iranian targets in response to Iran's latest offensive against Iraqi territory. Earlier, in a statement carried by the radio, an Iraqi spokesman revealed that the Iraqi Navy has mined the approaches to Bandar-e Khomeyni and warned international shipping against entering the area.

Meanwhile, Iran claimed further successes in its offensive in the northern sector, announcing in communiques broadcast by Tehran radio that Iranian forces captured over 700 square km of territory including strategic heights overlooking the Iraqi border town of Panjwin. The Iranians killed or wounded over 3,500 Iraqis, took more than 700 prisoners, destroyed 40 tanks and personnel carriers, and shot down an Iraqi plane, the communiques claimed. They also captured the headquarters of Kurdish and Mojahedin-e Khalq rebels southwest of Sar Dasht, according to IRNA.

Communiques broadcast by Voice of the Masses and Baghdad radios asserted that Iraqi forces foiled Iranian attempts to surround Panjwin and recaptured another hill from the enemy. Iran lost 3,235 men killed in its offensive and failed on all axes, the commander of Iraq's I Army Corps stated in remarks reported by INA on 23 October. He warned the Iranians were preparing to attack again. An Iraqi spokesman cited by Baghdad radio subsequently announced that Iran launched another "foolhardy action" on the night of 23-24 October. Tehran radio confirmed the new attack, saying that Iranian troops launched the "second phase" of their offensive late on 23 October, capturing more territory and taking 80 prisoners.

Iranian Comment — The depth of Iran's offensive along a 160-km front in the north will become apparent in a couple of weeks, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani announced in a Friday sermon broadcast by Tehran radio. Admitting that Iran's offensive ability is limited, he said the depth of the attack may depend on "how far we can go." Iran decided to stage a new offensive to forestall an imminent Iraqi action aimed at proving that Iran is afraid, he said, and the attack was launched on the night when the Iraqis had canceled their military alert. Addressing his remarks to the United States, France, and "reactionaries" in the Middle East, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the offensive was also designed to make them comprehend that superpowers cannot determine the course of the war. Iran would like to have good relations with them and pursue a quiet life, he went on, but they started the "fire" and must therefore be burned by it so that they will never again attempt such action. In his Arabic sermon, the Majlis speaker claimed that if Iraq's "madness and recklessness" forces Iran to take the "bitter and undesirable" step of closing the Strait of Hormuz, "no one will be able to prevent us."

Iraqi Diplomacy, Mobilization — Iraqi Revolution Command Council Member Taha Yasin Ramadan arrived in Oman on 22 October at the start of a Gulf tour during which he will deliver messages to local leaders from President Saddam Husayn and hold talks on the war, Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio noted. Meanwhile, thousands of Iraqi Kurds have volunteered for duty in the Panjwin sector, the radio said.

Alleged Assassination Attempts in Iraq, Syria

Iraqi officials expressed "astonishment" at the London *Daily Mail*'s 21 October report that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn recently escaped assassination, according to the Amman paper *Sawt ash-Sha'b*. Meanwhile, Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Syrian authorities have arrested 12 Army officers in connection with an abortive assassination attempt against President Hafiz al-Asad in which eight people were killed.

PLO Affairs

The "Palestinian masses" in Libya took control of the Fatah offices in Tripoli in the name of the "revolutionary movement" within Fatah and issued a statement denouncing the Fatah representative in Libya as one of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's "stooges," JANA reported on 21 October. Meanwhile, rival Palestinian factions exchanged fire in Damascus when 'Arafat forces attempted to retake Fatah offices previously seized by the dissidents, according to Radio Monte Carlo. Earlier, Al-Asad held lengthy talks with Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan, who had arrived in Damascus after meeting with King Fahd in Jidda, the radio reported citing WAFA. Al-Hasan subsequently described his talks with the Syrian leader as "good" and expressed hope that an 'Arafat-Al-Asad meeting will be arranged, the *Jordan Times* said. Nevertheless, 'Arafat again warned of a possible Syrian military operation against him and his forces in northern Lebanon and also revealed that he expects an Israeli operation in the north, according to a press interview reported by KUNA.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is not a guardian of oil supplies to the West, so if Iran seeks to cut off the oil it will be the "duty of those who benefit from this oil" to take appropriate action, "whether they are from the East or from the West," Defense Minister Prince Sultan stated at a Rome press conference reported by Riyadh radio.

Libya

Compensation Issue — Thousands of "knights" on horseback arrived in Tripoli where they demonstrated outside the Italian Embassy to affirm Libya's demand for reparations for the damage caused by "Italian colonialism," JANA reported. The demonstrators handed a memorandum to the Italian ambassador stressing that unless Italy agrees to provide compensation, the Libyan people will be obliged to "obtain their rights via international platforms and through the use of other means."

Report on Egypt — Tripoli radio claimed that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has dismissed his political adviser Usamah al-Baz.

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PLO Denies Statement on Beirut Explosions

JN241048 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Text] In Tripoli, a responsible PLO source has denied that the PLO had issued any statement on the two explosions that occured in Beirut yesterday, stressing that what has been attributed to the PLO is mere fabrication.

Explosions in Beirut Elicit Commentary

NC240826 North Lebanon Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0545 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Political commentary: "The Legend Has Been Destroyed; Will the Policy Change?"]

[Text] Brothers, struggling masses: For years the Americans have been trying to make a big legend with which they have been intimidating the world, suppress the peoples, and approaching the shores of seas and oceans, toppling governments, causing disturbances, and destroying existing equations. This contemporary U.S. legend is the U.S. Marine Corps.

There is no need for us to recall the big predicament in which the United States was involved in the swamps of Vietnam and that ended with the destruction of the U.S. legend and the U.S. concepts that are based on domination. There is no need for us to bring this back. It is sufficient, we think, to follow the details of what happened at 0600 on Sunday, 23 October 1983, at the Beirut airport on the Lebanese coast. It is sufficient to follow the terrifying details and the horrible U.S. tragedy in order to confirm that all the demonstrative trips carried out by the U.S. aircraft carrier *New Jersey* have turned into a transient illusion like bubbles over oceans. The only remaining fact is that the U.S. Marine forces — the U.S. legend — have suffered a painful and tragic blow that will reverberate in every house in the United States and in the Oval Office of U.S. President Ronald Reagan. It will also reverberate in the depth of the U.S. mind to make it rid itself once again of the illusions of false legends and fake delusions, and to once again make it turn to the facts the peoples create in the world.

The United States has persistently refused all these years to take a neutral stand — not even once — regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestinian issue, and the rights of the Palestinian people. The United States has put itself in the place of Shylock the Jew and has started chopping from the flesh of the Palestinians in particular, and the Arabs in general. This biased, hostile, and flagrant U.S. position has led to very dangerous pitfalls during the Reagan administration.

First, as a big power, the United States violated its international commitments and its international honor when it withdrew from Beirut, signaling to the Zionists to carry out their massacre against the sons of the Palestinian people in the Sabra and Shatila camps. In addition to this deep wound which resulted from this U.S. behavior, U.S. prestige as a superpower who honors its commitments was also massacred with those who were massacred in Sabra and Shatila.

Second, this biased, hostile, and flagrant position has led the United States to gradually slide into the Lebanese swamps. The first of these slips was the U.S. armed presence itself, the participation of U.S. units in the game of local conflict in the mountain, and the U.S. involvement in regional deals without taking into consideration the Palestinian aspirations and rights which the PLO represents. On the contrary, the U.S. Administration, led by Ronald Reagan, pledged to attack the PLO, to incite against it, and to prompt the other sides to attack it; it did all this in order to save Israel. But the result, which is obvious now, is that the United States was the one which fell in the murderous trap.

Many conclusions can be made from the violent blow to which the U.S. Marines were subjected at the Beirut airport. But the essence of these conclusions is that the U.S. legend has been destroyed. Will the U.S. policy change or will it get more deeply involved? This is what the coming days will show.

WAFA Blames U.S., Israel for Bloodshed

NC240800 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Text] The Palestinian WAFA agency has commented on the two attacks, saying that they represent a new form of resistance and that the Americans and the French should realize its significance. WAFA added that the two incidents are the heavy bill for the U.S. and French involvement in the Lebanese swamp. The Palestinian agency called on the two countries to remember the Vietnamese lesson and withdraw their forces from Arab Lebanon. It added: The direct responsibility for the bloodshed yesterday, and the blood that will still be shed, falls on President Reagan and his advisers who have involved the U.S. forces in a criminal war for which the U.S. and Israeli Governments planned 8 years ago.

Klibi Proposes Minisummit To Discuss Lebanon

NC221814 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] Within the framework of the Arab-Lebanese activity, there is Arab concern in addition to the Saudi efforts. Chedli Klibi, the secretary general of the Arab League, called for ending the tragedy which has been going on in Lebanon, and for facilitating reconciliation among the Lebanese communities. In a cable to President al-Jumayyil, he proposed holding an urgent minisummit for this purpose.

'Arafat Warns of Plans To Drive PLO From Lebanon

LD220855 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0755 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] Kuwait, 22 Oct (KUNA) — PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat announced that a military operation is being prepared at American request against the Palestinian revolution in the north of Lebanon with the main aim of driving the PLO out of Lebanon. In an interview with *Al-Qabas* published today, he said that through a massacre against the revolution and against the town of Tripoli, the way is being paved to create an alternative to the

organization and at the same time to try to force Tripoli to obey because it embraces the revolutions at the most difficult and dark hours.

'Arafat added that there is "an unfair campaign" seeking to blame the organization and him personally for the fighting that recently took place in Tripoli between the Islamic At-Tawhid movement and the Lebanese Communist Party. He said that the harshest thing in this campaign is that it comes from parties within the Lebanese National Movement with whom we lived for a period of time "and are still in one trench."

He explained that these bloody clashes between the parties of the National Movement are not new. They have occurred in southern Lebanon, in Al-Biqa', and in Tripoli, and take various forms, "and it is a preliminary operation for a forthcoming extended military operation against the Palestinian revolution and against the sons of Tripoli."

'Arafat stressed that he will not neglect the alliance or friends even if they err, and that the march supported by the blood of the Palestinian and Lebanese people cannot be broken.

'Arafat admitted to the presence of sister and friendly Arab and international efforts to stop the anticipated military operation. He said that among those efforts are those by former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami, who personally contacted officials in Damascus, and also those by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, who sent one of his senior aides to meet Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The monarch of Saudi Arabia, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-Aziz, sent his Minister of Information 'Ali Hasan ash-Sha'ir to Damascus, and 'Arafat received a message from Soviet president Yuriy Andropov.

He urged the Arabs to be concerned about the Palestinian revolution and the town of Tripoli the way they are concerned with the redline in Suq al-Gharb.

He stressed that "lack of concern about conditions, and sentiments that the plot is here today and there tomorrow and nobody will be safe from it" do exist.

He said that events have once again proven that we are the basic element in the Middle East region and the insurmountable obstacle to the implementation of the American plan in the region.

He said that the revolution is moving from one seige to another, that "at no time did I consider the revolution to be a picnic; the seige around the revolution cannot be broken except in Jerusalem." He stressed that the Israeli army is not picnicking on the shores of Tripoli and that he expects an Israeli military operation in the north.

He demanded that leaders and rulers of Arab countries protect the Palestinians "because the seige we are suffering in the occupied Arab lands, Tripoli, Al-Biqa' and (Yarmuk) is quite enough, and there is no need to cordon off the Palestinians." 'Arafat stressed that he will remain in Tripoli on his way to Jerusalem. "We are entering the dark tunnel, but at the end of it I see the walls and lights of Jerusalem."

'Arafat Interviewed

GF231618 Kuwait Al-Qabas in Arabic 22 Oct 83 p 17

[Interview with Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, by *Al-Qabas* in Tripoli — date not given]

[Excerpts] [*Al-Qabas*] It is clear that you did not participate in the last events in Tripoli. Then, why, in your opinion, is this organized campaign being carried out against you?

['Arafat] Music, a maestro, and a band are preparing for the organized military operation according to what has been declared by the U.S. circles about the recent agreements between the United States and some Arab sides.

[*Al-Qabas*] Do you accuse the Lebanese Communist Party of preparing for this military operation about which you are speaking?

['Arafat] I am sorry to say that they are a part of the band.

[*Al-Qabas*] Does this mean that the decision is not the Americans' since the communists participated in it?

['Arafat] This is another explanation. I don't think that this explanation has any connection with the Soviet position.

[*Al-Qabas*] Who else, in your opinion, other than the United States and Syria, would you hold responsible for preparing for a military operation against you?

['Arafat] No one other than them.

[*Al-Qabas*] And the communists?

['Arafat] No.

[*Al-Qabas*] There are many rumors about there being an attempt to find an alternative for the PLO.

['Arafat] The PLO was not formed as a result of an Arab decision or any other decision by Arab or non-Arab intelligence circles. We are here because of the will of the Palestinian people, who expressed this will through the democracy being enjoyed inside the Palestinian arena. The last meeting of the National Council in Algeria is an example of that. We know why we adhere to the PLO and to independent decisionmaking. The independence of decisionmaking means independent existence and an independent Palestinian state, and means coherent national Palestinian rights that are inseparable from our right to return and to establish an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. I want to say to all those who are trying to prey on the PLO that the organization is strong because of the wide real-liance of our masses inside the occupied territories despite the difficult circumstances they live under.

[*Al-Qabas*] Can we say that the relations with Saudi Arabia are undergoing a stage of slackness?

['Arafat] On the contrary, 2 days ago His Majesty King Fahd received Brothers Abu as-Sa'id, Abu Shakir, and Abu Mazin,

who held expanded contacts and meetings during this visit, especially with King Fahd, Prince 'Adallah, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Prince Nayif, and a number of other Saudi officials. As a result of this visit, King Fahd sent Lieutenant General 'Ali ash-Sha'ir to Syria.

'Arafat-Al-Asad Reconciliation Observed

JN221113 Amman Jordan Times in English 22 Oct 83 pp 1, 3

[By Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman — A personal effort by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to reconcile Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has been crowned with initial success, according to a senior Palestinian leader.

Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to the PLO chairman and a member of the Fatah Central Committee, told the *Jordan Times* Friday that the Syrian president received a high-level 'Arafat emissary, Khalid al-Hasan, late on Thursday evening, and the meeting between the two was characterised as "good" by Mr 'Arafat's envoy. The meeting in Damascus Thursday was the first direct contact between Mr al-Asad and a personal representative of the PLO chairman, since the latter was expelled from Damascus last June. Khalid al-Hasan is also a member of the Fatah Central Committee and brother of Hani al-Hasan, who is on an official visit to Jordan.

Details of what went on in the meeting in Damascus were not available, but Hani al-Hasan was optimistic that it could be followed by another between Mr 'Arafat and the Syrian president soon.

"The fact that the meeting was held in the first place is definitely a success. Credit must be due to King Fahd and his personal efforts, as well as the role played by Saudi Arabia in bringing us (Palestinians and Syrians) together," Hani al-Hasan said. "Abu as-Sa'id (Khalid) told me, in a telephone conversation from Damascus last night, that the meeting was 'good,' and we're hoping that it could be followed with another between the PLO chairman and the Syrian president soon. This is a success," he added.

(News agencies carried reports on Friday of the Damascus meeting, and Khalid al-Hasan was quoted as saying only that he and Mr al-Asad discussed all questions pertinent to the Palestinian problem, and that results of their meeting would be known very soon. He and his brother Hani are considered staunch 'Arafat supporters and are opposed to the rebel movement inside their PLO organisation, Fatah, which is the biggest and strongest grouping within the PLO.

On his visit to Jordan, Hani Al-Hasan said: "Palestinians and Jordanians are fully agreed that the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship is a strategic necessity for us. Although there might be points of differences here and there, this would not bring to a halt the Jrodanian-Palestinian dialogue, as well all know of the American-Israeli plan to divide the Arab region into statelets. The Israelis are aiming at breaking the Jordanian-Palestinian unity. This is their way to the West Bank and Gaza. And hence our visit to Amman." Mr Hasan is accompanied here by Mr Rafiq an-Natshah, the PLO representative in Riyadh, who is also a member of the Fatah Central Committee.

"Our exchange of views here is a natural, if not axiomatic, result of the failure of the United States to make Israel withdraw from Lebanon, and of Washington's failure to stop the building of Jewish settlements (in the occupied Arab territories)," Mr al-Hasan said. "We, and Jordan, are working together to confront Israel's colonisation programme in the occupied territories. We are aiming at crystallising a common stand for the next Arab summit (scheduled for Saudi Arabia next month), which should work out a mechanism for implementing the resolutions of the Fes summit (last year). But, most of all, our strongest emphasis is on rebuilding the Eastern Front, whose backbone is the Jordanian and Syrian armies, backed by the PLO, to confront Israel.

Mr al-Hasan went on to say that, "without a military strength to back it up, no political move can mean anything". In the meeting between President al-Asad and Khalid al-Hasan rebuilding the Eastern Front was a subject discussed, he said, "and, we think, the meeting was a landmark in attempting to reach a common understanding with our Syrian brothers" in this respect. "This will also help take joint effective political and strategic moves, within a framework of real Arab solidarity," he added.

Joint Forces Attack Israelis in S. Lebanon

JN221805 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] Men of the joint forces have carried out a new operation against a Zionist military patrol in the An-Nabatiyah area of southern Lebanon. Two vehicles belonging to the Zionist occupation forces were destroyed after being hit by rockets in an ambush set up by a unit of the joint Palestinian and Lebanese Nationalist Forces on the road between Ad-Duwayr and (As-Saruf). About 10 of the Zionist enemy's soldiers were either killed or wounded. Several Zionist ambulances rushed to the scene as enemy occupation forces cordoned off the area.

Another joint forces unit attacked an enemy patrol near the southern entrance to Sidon, using machineguns and handgrenades. Enemy casualties were not known because of the siege imposed on the are by the occupation forces. However, ambulances were seen evacuating the Zionist casualties. A third joint forces unit attacked another Zionist military patrol in the As-Sarafand area between Sidon and Tyre. The attack, which was carried out with machineguns, rockets, and handgrenades, destroyed an Israeli vehicle and either killed or wounded its passengers.

'Revolutionaries' Attack Israelis Near Jerusalem

JN231748 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] A group of our revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland have launched a new, brave attack against a group

of the Zionist enemy's soldiers near a military bus station in a settlement south of Jerusalem. The attack, which was carried out with handgrenades and machineguns, resulted in the killing or wounding of a number of the Zionist enemy's soldiers.

A Zionist military spokesman has admitted the operation and said that the occupation forces combed the area immediately. He added that many neighboring Palestinian villages were searched and dozens of Palestinian citizens were arrested for their alleged involvement in the operation.

BAHRAIN

Reagan Blamed for Beirut Bombing Incident

GF240944 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 24 Oct 83

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Manama, 24 Oct (WAKH) — *Akhbar al-Khalij* has stressed that the two explosions that destroyed the headquarters of the U.S. Marines and the French force in Beirut were the most vivid retaliation to the press conference President Reagan held last Wednesday and to the role played by the Multinational Force in Lebanon, exceeding any role that could be played by any foreign peacekeeping force in the country.

The newspaper continued: In his press conference, President Reagan insisted on the continuation of U.S. involvement in Lebanon. Instead of trying to comprehend the crux of the issue and why it is hard to solve in U.S. terms, he dispersed charges and continued issuing his ill-researched resolutions to intensify the use of military power in Beirut, despite the advise given by his new national security adviser.

Concluding, the newspaper called on the countries of the Multinational Force to review the role of their troops in Lebanon. The paper also indicated that these countries have to realize that power has its limits, even the power of the superpowers, "where the solution in Lebanon can neither be reached through ignoring the roots of the problem nor through ending political efforts and resorting to force."

Amir Receives Iraqi President's Message

GF221844 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1820 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] Manama, 22 Oct (WAKH) — Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah has received a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on bilateral relations and current developments in the region, particularly with regard to the Iraq-Iran war. The message was conveyed by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi RCC member and first deputy prime minister, during his audience with Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah here this evening.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and acting prime minister; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, interior minister; and Shaykh Khalifah ibn Ahmad Al Khalifah, chief of staff of the Bahrain Defense Force.

KUWAIT

Officials Link Bombing With U.S. Policy on Israel

LD240921 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0741 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Text] Kuwait, 24 Oct (KUNA) — Two Kuwaiti political officials agreed on the dangerous consequences of the bombing of U.S. and French forces' headquarters in Beirut yesterday. They stressed that the operations have led to a great disturbance of the plans and efforts that are taking in the Middle East.

Speaker of the National Assembly Muhammad Yusuf Adasani and the Foreign Ministry under secretary, Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz Rashid, in two seperate statements to *Al-Qabas*, published today, agreed that the United States was now reaping what was planted by Israel, and that the United States was responsible for this due to its consent to give Israel a free hand in Lebanon.

Adasani expected that the U.S. reply to the bombing of the U.S. forces' headquarters would be violent, and that it could do it by (?launching) a widescale operation in Lebanon to regain the U.S. Administration's prestige that was shaken in the international arena. He said: This incident holds dangers of unexpected dimensions. He added that Israel planted sedition in Lebanon and the United States was now reaping the consequences. Adasani urged President Reagan to reconsider U.S. policy in the region in general. He pointed out that what is taking place in Lebanon has diverted the world's attention from the issues of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the rest of the occupied Arab territories, and it has put the Palestine issue as a whole in a difficult position.

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

LD231822 Kuwait KUNA in English 1502 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Excerpt] Kuwait, Oct 23 (KUNA) — Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived here Sunday on a short official visit during which he is expected to convey a message from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-Aziz to H.H. the amir, contents of which were not disclosed. Prince Sa'ud was received on arrival by Deputy Premier, Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Under Secretary at the Foreign Ministry Rashid ar-Rashid, Director of the Minister's Office Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, the Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Shaykh Fahd al-'Isa, and other Foreign Ministry officials.

Discusses Gulf Summit, Lebanon

LD231834 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1715 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Kuwait, 23 Oct (KUNA) — The Saudi foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, has said here today that he has no knowledge of a desire to postpone the Arab summit. He added in a statement to newsmen on arrival here today: We have not had any request from any side to postpone the conference. There is a strong desire from all that every effort be made to hold it. He said: The important thing about the Arab summit is the framework in which it is held, and holding the summit should be an opening to confront Arab problems. He noted the current intensive Arab contacts in this connection and said that this is cause for joy. He stressed the strong desire of all the Arab states that the Arab summit should lead to strengthening the Arab position in confronting the current problems.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal announced in his statement that his visit to Kuwait has two purposes. The first is to deliver a message to the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, from Saudi King Fahd, and the second is to have an opportunity to meet the deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and acting information minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, and discuss various current questions including Arab relations, the GCC summit meeting in

Doha on 7 November, and follow up some matters which were entrusted to him and to Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad within the framework of the Cooperation Council. He stressed that constant consultation between the two countries is a duty.

Answering a question on the effect on Saudi efforts for national reconciliation in Lebanon caused by the explosions which took place this morning at the headquarters of the U.S. Marines and the French forces in Beirut, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said that there are positive signs appearing in the Lebanese arena. They include the agreement to hold the national reconciliation conference. We are optimistic about this. He expressed regret that the bloodshed in Lebanon has not stopped.

He said: We hope that the bloodshed that occurred today as a result of the explosions will not overshadow the optimistic view in people's minds about the cease-fire and the agreement to hold the reconciliation meeting. He expressed the hope that these events will not shake the reconciliation process because we believe that it is the major foundation and the basic axis for any Lebanese reconciliation and ending of the Lebanese problem.

As for Palestinian-Syrian relations and the efforts to remove the differences between them, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said that any Syrian-Palestinian meeting cannot lead to anything other than positive results, because Syrian-Palestinian relations should be both normal and ideal relations.

Amir Receives Message From USSR's Andropov

LD221115 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] The amir of Kuwait received a message from Soviet President Yuriy Andropov this morning. The message was delivered by the USSR ambassador to Kuwait.

Arab Nations Urged To Restore Egypt Ties

GF210804 Kuwait Arab Times in English 19 Oct 83 p 6

["Opinion" column by Editor in Chief Ahmad al-Jarallah: "Arabs and Egypt Need Each Other"]

[Text] Speaking about the return of Egypt to the Arab World, President Husni Mubarak believed no one was benefitting from the rift. Intelligent people in the Arab World understand the situation, as the majority approve the return of Egypt.

But a very few Arab countries imagine they are able to defeat the big powers of the world because Vietnam could defeat the United States. But it was Soviet power in Vietnam which defeated the U.S., and Vietnam witnessed the struggle of the big powers on its land, and for various reasons a big power was able to overcome another big power. But the situation in the Arab World is different, and we are defeated in our struggle with Israel partly because the Arab World is ruled by more than 20 different ideologies. When Egypt is separated from the Arab World it does not mean that the Arab World will defeat Israel, or that the Arabs will be able to create a diplomatic atmosphere capable of lessening Egypt's international influence.

In the present atmosphere of world economic collapse and political tension, the Arab World needs a minimum of solidarity. This solidarity cannot be achieved while an important country is unjustifiably excluded. Some say that the return needs a group decision, but who would compose the group? Is it likely that such a decision will be taken within the Arab political game, which makes use of different roles for personal interest, as these games cannot be played unless Egypt is excluded?

It is high time, as the Egyptian president said, to correct past mistakes, because Egypt is losing by the absence of Arabs and Arabs are losing by the absence of Egypt. The development of Arab countries will lose much and Arab political interests will suffer.

It is unacceptable now to say that the return of Egypt to the Arabs is in need of a group decision as this is an unjustifiable waste of time.

Strong Syrian Position Toward U.S. Suggested

GF221550 Kuwait Al-Anba' in Arabic 21 Oct 83 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "Reagan, Syria, and Unity"]

[Excerpt] The U.S. President can say anything. He can tell many lies as well as he can say the truth. However, this President is the last one who has the right to insult Syria by saying that the Syrians are invited to honor their commitments and fulfill their pledges by withdrawing from Lebanon in order to facilitate the process of the Lebanese reconciliation.

The U.S. President, like his predecessors and successors, will remain a victim of the lies engineered by U.S. political circles that are subjected to the influence of Zionist domination. President Ronald Reagan is angry at Syria because it has not fulfilled its commitment by withdrawing from Lebanon, although this President knows that President Hafiz al-Asad pledged to withdraw from Lebanon on two conditions. The first condition is the comprehensive and unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli troops from Lebanon and the acceptance of this withdrawal by the Arabs, because the Syrian troops entered Lebanon at the request of the president of the Lebanese Republic and according to an Arab decision. These objective conditions have not been fulfilled because it is the United States and the United States alone that has not fulfilled its commitments and has disgraced the American word of honor by allowing Israel to invade Beirut and by supervising the Sabra and Shatila massacres. It is the United States alone that forced Lebanon to submit to the Khaldah agreement; in this way it has violated its commitments to guarantee the comprehensive and unconditional Israeli withdrawal.

However, President Reagan imagines that he is capable of throwing coal bags on others, yet remaining with clean hands, tongue, and clothes. This is an absolute illusion. The king of the White House, who lied when he denied his knowledge of the Israeli invasion plan, his approval of the invasion of Beirut, and the siege of the Palestinian resistance, is now lying by saying that Damascus does not keep its word and does not fulfill its pledges. But, we say to him in the name of free Arabs that Damascus will

not fulfill the commitments it gave to the United States and will not fulfill its pledges. We do not want Damascus to be committed to agreements with the United States. Rather, we want Damascus to be capable of cheating the Americans and to be capable of telling lies to Washington.

OMAN

Iraq's Ramadan Arrives, Makes Statement

GF221155 Doha QNA in Arabic 1110 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] Muscat, 22 Oct (QNA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi RCC member and first deputy prime minister, arrived in Muscat this afternoon on a short visit to Oman. Upon arrival, the Iraqi official said he is carrying a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id.

In a statement to the QNA correspondent in Muscat, Ramadan said the message deals with coordination and exchange of views on all issues that concern the Arab nation at this decisive stage. He affirmed the need for holding such meetings and contacts. Our current contacts and exchanges of views with Arab brothers are an inevitable result of the circumstances we are passing through, he said. He said he will brief Sultan Qabus on the latest developments in the Iraq-Iran war.

In reply to a question by journalists, Ramadan emphasized that there are no Iranian forces on Iraqi territory. The Iranian offensive during the past 2 days not only failed, the attacking forces also suffered heavy losses in life and equipment, he said. Addressing the Iranian side, he said: We tell the Iranians that whatever their pressure on this axis is, we know that their axis is not here; therefore, we will not change our defense calculations that they will turn to their wanted axis where they will face the same fate.

In reply to a question on when Iraq will use the French Super Etendard planes, he said: Iraq will use them when it deems it useful, convenient, and necessary.

On what has been reported on the Egyptian president's visit to Iraq, he said: So far, nothing has been defined regarding this visit.

Regarding the settlement of the Syrian-Iraqi dispute, Ramadan said: There is nothing new on this issue.

Ramadan Ends Visit

GF221712 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi RCC member and first deputy prime minister, and the delegation accompanying him, left the country this evening. He was seen off on departure by Qais 'Abd al-Mun'im az-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs; Sayf ibn Hamad (al-Batashi), foreign ministry under secretary; the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Muscat; and a number of the Sultanate's protocol men.

QATAR

Amir Receives Iraqi President's Message

GF221850 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1812 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] Doha, 22 Oct (WAKH) — Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani has received a verbal message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on the developments in the region and on bilateral relations. The message was conveyed by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister in Iraq, during his audience with Shaykh Khalifah here today. The Iraqi official arrived in Doha from Muscat earlier today.

GCC's 'Abdallah Bisharah Arrives in Doha

GF231954 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1930 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Doha, 23 Oct (WAKH) — GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah arrived in Doha from Riyadh this evening on a 2-day visit to Qatar.

In an arrival statement, Bisharah said that he will exchange views during this visit with a number of Qatari officials on the final arrangements and preparations for holding the fourth session of the Supreme Council of the GCC, scheduled to be held in Doha on 7 November.

SAUDI ARABIA

Prince Bandar States Indignation Over Bombings

LD240920 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0730 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Text] Washington, 24 Oct (SPA) — The Kingdom's ambassador in Washington, His Royal Highness Prince Bandar ibn Sultan, expressed the Kingdom's indignation at the two explosions that took place at the headquarters of the U.S. and French forces within the Multinational Forces in Beirut yesterday. This came in a statement made by His Highness. The following is the text of the statement:

Following the painful incident that took place in Beirut, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia expresses its strongest indignation at the terrorist and destructive acts that took place at dawn yesterday in Beirut — the explosions at the command centers of the U.S. and French forces resulting in the deaths of many human beings who were there at the invitation of the Lebanese Government to safeguard peace in Lebanon.

Despite the enormity of the incident, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hopes that this painful incident will not negatively affect the path of peace toward which the Lebanese people are moving through their concern over convening the expected national dialogue committee to safeguard peace and unity of the Lebanese territories, and as reaffirmation of the Arab efforts made in this sphere.

Beirut Explosions, National Accord Examined
LD231530 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Oct 83

[News analysis by Samir Habib Bakhsh]

[Excerpts] The observers and those who are interested in the developments of the situation in Lebanon directed their attention today to the two explosions that destroyed the headquarters of the U.S. forces and the French unit which are parts of the Multinational Forces in Lebanon. The observers pointed out that behind the two incidents lie attempts to lower Arab relations with the countries of the world. It is also no secret what Lebanon faces in order to defeat all the efforts aimed at achieving peace and stability in the country that has suffered and is still suffering the presence of the invading Israeli forces on its territories. The Israeli forces work toward dividing the Lebanese ranks in particular, and toward dividing the ranks in the region in general.

It remains to point out the importance of holding the national reconciliation meetings at their fixed time in order to achieve national reconciliation in Lebanon, to make the united Lebanon able to evict the invading Israeli forces, and in order to spread peace over this Arab country so that it can resume its civilized role as a link between the East and the West after healing the wounds it suffered during the past 8 years.

Saudi Papers Comment on Explosions in Beirut
GF240529 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 24 Oct 83

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] The newspapers *'Ukaz* and *Al-Madinah* have commented editorially on the explosions yesterday in Beirut in which a huge number of U.S. Marines and French troops were killed.

'Ukaz said: This incident raises a number of questions, such as: Who benefits from this incident; why was it timed so; and what is the expected reaction? The paper pointed out that this incident, which was directed against the U.S. and the French forces, was designed to ensure a number of goals, foremost of which are underming the Lebanese national dialogue and keeping the situation as it is now. This will consequently lead to escalation and internationalization of the dispute in Lebanon. The paper ruled out that any Lebanese side was involved in this act, which paves the way for acute intensification of the dispute and destroys the opportunity to hold the national dialogue, which was supported by all the Lebanese sides.

Al-Madinah said that this massacre and the method implemented vividly indicate its source, which carried out similar operations in the past. *Al-Madinah* inquired: In the history of crime and bloodshed was this operation any different from the criminal operations closely associated with the leaders of the so-called Zionist entity, such as the masscres of Hebron, Dayr Yasir, An-Nabatiyah, and Sabra and Shatila, destruction of the Iraqi nuclear reactor, the plans to assassinate Palestinian leaders in Beirut, and the other specialized crimes that the Jewish-Zionist leadership has been known for?

Lebanese Dialogue Conference Examined
LD222333 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Oct 83

[News and comment by Husayn al-'Askari]

[Text] Is is expected that the Lebanese dialogue conference to reach a national agreement among the Lebanese sides will start next month in Geneva. It is too early to predict what might result from the national dialogue conference among the Lebanese groups, to be held in Geneva probably at the beginning of next November. The only thing that will certainly happen is the possibility of reaching a Lebanese reconciliation based on the developments of the successive events in the Lebanese arena and demands that the Lebanese reconciliation force its presence upon these developments and contain all that these developments have brought up, and bring up.

All the Lebanese now, more than any previous time, believe in the necessity of controlling the situation through forcing a Lebanese agreement.

Through a long march of fighting the Lebanese have understood that the opinion and the opposite opinion of what resulted from them of trust-crisis among the sides of the conflict should be put aside and forgotten, and the only things to be remembered should be Lebanon, the land, and the people.

It is clear from the indicators that have appeared, that there is a sincere wish and a good will to accomplish the required Lebanese reconciliation. The reconciliation is one on which the protection of Lebanon, its land, and its people depend, protection from exposure to more tragedies and pains, as the Lebanese body is full of wounds and there is no place for more knives to be planted in it.

UAE

Beirut Bombing 'Regrettable Phenomenon'
GF240631 Dubayy Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 24 Oct 83

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Commenting editorially on the situation in Lebanon, the newspaper *Al-Bayan* said: The expansion of violence in Lebanon is a regrettable phenomenon.

It stresses that an Arab country is still subject to an unusual situation, in that it is the scene of a dispute among numerous powers, and it is the only loser. The killing of the U.S. and French troops is not a goal inasmuch as it is evidence of the intricate situation and conflicting powers, which makes nobody safe on Lebanese territories at this time. If what took place can be regarded as an unacceptable act, then can't the continuation of the U.S. supply of Israel with the most sophisticated weapons of killing and destruction also be regarded an unacceptable act?

AL-KHALIJ Attacks Reagan's Statement on Syria

GF210758 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0705 GMT 21 Oct 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Ash-Shariqah, 21 Oct (WAM) — In its editorial today, the newspaper *Al-Khalij* attacked the statement made by U.S. President Ronald Reagan yesterday in which he said Damascus is trying to form the "Greater Syria" and described it as an insult to the whole Arab nation.

Under the headline "The United States and the Method of Treacherous Deception," the newspaper said the U.S. President is reversing facts by turning white into black and north into south so that this deception would protect the U.S. interests for a short period of time and for this exposed objective. He said Damascus is trying to form the "Greater Syria," which the United States supplies with advanced weapons and all forms of aid and whose independence, prosperity and security the U.S. President frequently emphasizes.

Al-Khalij asserted that Syria's relations with Jordan and Lebanon are based on announced official foundations and that the Arab people are the Arab people in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, the Arab Maghreb, and the Gulf. All have a common fate and the same culture. They have one psychological structure and that is why any attempt by the United States or anyone else to harm the pan-Arab relations among the sons of the one people [words indistinct]. The paper added that the reply to it "will be real when we cling to our full, firm, and inalienable rights in Palestine, and when we do not accept Resolution 242, the Camp David accords, the Reagan initiative, or anything that relinquishes the smallest part of our full rights."

YAR

President Discusses GCC, Armed Forces' Role

GF231412 Kuwait Ar-Ra'y al-'Amm in Arabic 22 Oct 83 p 29

[Interview with Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the YAR, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, by *Ar-Ra'y al-'Amm* correspondent in San'a', 'Abdallah al-Waqyan — no date given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Waqyan] What is your view on the GCC and do you believe it has played the role it set out to play? It has been said that there have been some proposals made on allowing the YAR join the GCC. Is this a fact?

[Salih] We consider every feature of Arab cooperation a positive step which we welcome and hope will expand. The GCC is a positive step which we support; we hope the GCC will be a step on the road for greater Arab cooperation that will enable the Arabs to remove the obstacles created by the current circumstances. As for the second question, the rumors are baseless.

[Al-Qaqyan] Do you believe the Yemeni Armed Forces are able to protect the country and have the potential to do so?

[Salih] We build the Armed Forces and security to be able to protect the country and safeguard national independence and sovereignty. The Armed Forces and security [forces] are trying hard to achieve the revolution's goal so that the major national institutions can carry out their tasks in defense of every inch of the Yemeni land and to participate in any pan-Arab role assigned to them.

'Ali Denounces 'Heinous' Incident in Beirut

NC231216 Cairo MENA in English 1210 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Cairo, Oct 23 (MENA) — Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali denounced the heinous incident that took place today in Beirut and that has taken the lives of a number of U.S. Marines and members of the French contingent operating within the Multi-national Force. He expressed his condolences to families of the victims. This came in cables of condolences sent by Hasan 'Ali to George Shultz, U.S. secretary of state, and Claude Cheysson, French minister of external relations.

Comments Further on Blast

NC231242 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1228 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has emphasized that both explosions in Beirut call for further action to find a quick solution to the Lebanese problem and the problems of the Middle East. In commenting today on the two explosions, 'Ali said that Egypt has continuously called on the two superpowers and the parties concerned to exercise self-restraint and to demonstrate reason in solving all problems and achieving peace in the area. He also stressed that such actions are considered to be a threat to stability and peace in the Middle East and Lebanon.

Daily: Israeli 'Violence' Caused Beirut Blasts

NC240701 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 24 Oct 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Israel's Violence Is the Cause of the Tragedy", *Al-Jumhuriyah* says: The feelings of shock and denunciation over what happened to the U.S. and French forces in Beirut must not divert our attention from the reality of the reason for the Israeli invasion of the Lebanese territory and the adoption of the policy of force to subjugate the Lebanese will and crush the Palestinian resistance. Egypt has repeatedly warned against Israel's policy of violence, which does not serve the cause of peace, but exacerbates the problems and increases the tension in an area that has not known stability for 40 years. Concluding its editorial, *Al-Jumhuriyah* says that what happened in Beirut yesterday morning simply means that the Middle East conflagration has extended to other international parties. This dictates that all powers that really want peace should hasten to contain the fire and realize its real cause — aggression — and settle its repercussions with bravery and impartiality. This alone will open the way for peace.

Reportage on Conclusion of Romanian State Visit

Ceausescu Departs 22 Oct

NC220837 Cairo MENA in English 0820 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] Cairo, Oct 22 (MENA) — President Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania left here this morning for Khartoum at the end of a four-day state visit to Egypt during which he had talks with President Husni Mubarak.

The talks dealt with a number of international and Arab issues with emphasis on the Palestinian and Lebanese problems and means to bolster bilateral relations.

President Husni Mubarak led the well wishers who saw the Romanian President off at Al-Qubbah Republican Palace.

President Ceausescu is due to pay a two-day visit to the Sudan for talks with Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri and senior officials.

'Ali Signs Consular Agreement

NC221112 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA) — A consular agreement between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Socialist Republic of Romania was signed at the Al-Qubbah Republican Palace this morning. The agreement was signed by Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Stefan Andrei, the Romanian foreign minister.

Joint Declaration on Cooperation

NC221138 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu have affirmed that the establishment of a comprehensive, just, and permanent peace in the Middle East must be based on Israel's full withdrawal from the Arab territory occupied since 1967 and recognition of the national, legitimate, and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and to set up their own entity. They have also affirmed the need for the participation of the legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people in all negotiations on the establishment of a comprehensive, just, and permanent peace in the Middle East.

This was contained in the joint declaration on the steady growth of cooperation between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Socialist Republic of Romania following the talks held between the two presidents in Egypt during the period 19 to 22 October 1983.

The two presidents also called for the quick and unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon and for the preparation of an atmosphere enabling the Lebanese people to settle their domestic problems by themselves, without any foreign intervention, and on the basis of reconciliation and cooperation among all the political forces in Lebanon.

The Egyptian and Romanian presidents called for the immediate halt of military operations between Iraq and Iran and for the start of negotiations for solving the problems between the two countries on the basis of mutual respect for the national independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and non-intervention in the internal affairs of the two countries.

The two presidents affirmed the need for the adoption of specific and effective measures toward disarmament through a freeze and reduction of military budgets, withdrawal of military forces to within their national borders, removal of foreign military bases, and the simultaneous liquidation of military blocs.

The two presidents affirmed the need to reach an agreement at the Geneva talks on the nondeployment of medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe and at the same time on the withdrawal and destruction of existing ones in order to stop the nuclear arms race and ensure the security of all the parties concerned.

The two presidents also affirmed the need for the African countries and peoples to gain full independence and also for the African peoples to exercise freely their right to self-determination without any foreign intervention and to ensure the unity and security of their territory.

The two presidents strongly denounced the maneuvers of the racist regime in South Africa to hamper the independence of Namibia. They called for the right of the people of Namibia to independence and self-determination. They also denounced the aggressive acts carried out by the racist regime in South Africa against neighboring African countries and called for an immediate and unconditional halt to all violations of the sovereignty of these states and to attempts to destabilize them.

The two presidents expressed concern over the continuing conflicts in Latin America and Asia. They reaffirmed their conviction that all disputes among states must be solved by peaceful means through negotiations among the parties concerned.

The two presidents also expressed concern over the deteriorating economic situation, especially in the developing countries.

The following is the text of the joint Egyptian-Romanian declaration:

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu signed at the Presidential Palace this morning the joint declaration on the constant growth of cooperation between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Socialist Republic of Romania, in the wake of the discussions held in Egypt from 19 to 23 October 1983. The declaration expresses the two countries' satisfaction with the positive progress of the friendly and traditional relations and the fruitful and useful cooperation existing between the Egyptian and Romanian peoples — relations that are based on feelings of mutual respect, trust, and understanding:

In their confidence that the cooperation between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Socialist Republic of Romania will continue to develop in all domains of mutual interest, consistent with the aspirations of the two friendly peoples for progress, prosperity, and development in the future;

In confirmation of the two countries' belief that the relations among states must be based only on the principles of respect for national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; of complete equality in rights; of noninterference in the internal affairs; of not resorting to force or the threat to use force; and of not allowing the annexation of territories by force; and of mutual benefit;

In their insistence on continuing their effective contribution to reducing the acute tension in the world, to buttressing efforts aimed at halting the arms race and then to achieving disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, to eliminating backwardness, to establishing a new international economic system, to struggling for the final elimination of colonialism and the policy of racial discrimination and segregation, to settling all disputes among states only by peaceful means through negotiations, and bestowing a democratic character on international affairs;

In their insistence on working for stronger relations among the developing countries, the nonaligned states, and the small and medium-sized states in their joint struggle for peace and national independence and for exercising their right to self-determination, and for the prevalence of better understanding in the world;

In their recalling the principles and rules that are contained in the joint declaration signed in Bucharest on 10 September 1982 between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Socialist Republic of Romania, which dealt with bilateral and international affairs, in addition to the joint Egyptian-Romanian documents on which agreement was reached on the summit level;

In recalling the adherence of Egypt and Romania to the rules of international law and to the aims and principles of the UN Charter, and out of their wish to give Egyptian-Romanian cooperation new dimensions on the bilateral and international levels, the presidents of the two countries declare the following:

1. President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and President Nicolae Ceausescu express their two countries' great satisfaction with the continuous development of the traditional friendly relations and the cooperation between Egypt and Romania in the political, economic, technological, scientific, and cultural spheres, in addition to the other spheres of mutual interest. They appreciate that the experiment of the development of the Egyptian-Romanian cooperation fully confirms the inevitability of the establishment of relations among all states irrespective of their political and social systems on the basis of complete equality in rights and complete observance of the independence and national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal or external affairs of other states and not resorting to force or threat of force, and the right of all peoples to take part in settling international issues of common interest.

The two sides affirm the great importance of Egyptian-Romanian high-level meetings which give a new impetus and dimension for expansion in the relations between the two countries in complete conformity with the basic interests of the Egyptian and Romanian peoples in their continuous endeavors toward progress and prosperity and in favor of the cause of peace in the Middle East, Europe, and the whole world.

The presidents of Egypt and Romania express their conviction that the development of trade exchange and the consolidation of economic cooperation for mutual benefit are factors of extreme importance in deepening the friendship between the two coun-

tries and peoples. In reviewing the level of the economic and cultural relations and in evaluating the significant development of these relations in the past few years in implementation of the decisions which were adopted and the understanding which was reached on the highest level, the two presidents are convinced of the possibility of increasing the volume of bilateral exchanges through continuing intensive efforts to $1 billion by 1985, in accordance with what was agreed upon in the joint declaration signed in Bucharest in September 1982.

In order to achieve this goal, and taking into consideration the results which have been achieved in the sphere of bilateral economic cooperation and the economic potentials of each country, the two presidents underline the need to exert greater efforts to increase the trade exchange, to speed up the implementation of economic cooperation projects, and to conclude current negotiations to make it possible to start joint projects and programs of new activities with a view to making a greater contribution to the national economies of both countries.

The two presidents point out in particular that the efforts of the pertinent departments in both countries must be steered toward expanding bilateral cooperation for mutual benefit in the spheres of enery, oil, rural electrification, machine production, metal industries, chemical industries, land transportation, railways, telecommunications, agriculture, and food industries, with attention to the development of the modern aspects of cooperation in the production sector.

Desirous of contributing to closer relations between the two countries, the two presidents agreed to adopt effective measures for further cooperation between Egypt and Romania in the fields of science, technology, education, culture, arts, and tourism. To achieve this, the two sides will encourage technical and cultural cooperation, exchange cultural and scientific information, and hold meetings among teaching staff, scientists, technicians, and specialists in the various cultural fields.

The two presidents agreed to encourage and expand cooperation in the field of information out of appreciation for its important role in developing the ties of friendship among peoples in our modern age and to allow the peoples of Egypt and Romania to get better acquainted with the literature, culture, sciences, and civilization of the two countries and the great contribution the two countries have made to world civilization.

The two presidents expressed confidence that the enhancement of relations between the parliamentary bodies of the two countries and among the political organizations, trade unions, youth and women's organizations, and other organizations and friendship societies will contribute toward the development of friendship and cooperation between the Egyptian and Romanian peoples. Accordingly, the two presidents agreed to develop further these relations in view of their great impact on bilateral relations as a whole.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and President Nicolae Ceausescu reaffirmed their confidence that the increasing diversification of economic cooperation between them will prepare a solid and permanent ground for maintaining the traditional good relations between them. This will help to strengthen friendship between the Egyptian and Romanian peoples and will serve the causes of peace, understanding, national independence, cooperation, and progress throughout the world.

Furthermore, the two presidents expressed the confidence that the intensification of economic cooperation between Egypt and Romania would set an example for cooperation among the developing countries and would strengthen the principle of collective self-reliance and cooperation among them, as it would also strengthen their efforts to eliminate backwardness and establish a new world economic order.

2. In reviewing the current international situation, the president of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the president of the Socialist Republic of Romania emphasized that the current course of international relations is fully in line with the projections contained in the Egyptian-Romanian documents.

The two presidents affirmed the importance of the deep changes that have occurred and still are occuring in our modern world.

The two presidents noted that these changes are a result of the increasing strength and determination of peoples and countries to live in freedom and independence and a result of the struggle for progress and prosperity and the establishment of new international relations based on full equality in rights.

The development in international affairs indicates the determination of peoples to liquidate all forms of foreign occupation, persecution, and domination, to become the sole owners of their national resources, to choose freely the course of their social and economic development, to live in peace and security, and to be able to cooperate with other states and peoples in a world based on equality and justice.

The two presidents express their profound anxiety with regard to the serious tension that dominates international affairs as a result of the policy of force and threat of force in relations among states, the attempts to retain areas and spheres of influence, and to interfere in the internal and external affairs of other states, the continued conflicts and tension in various parts of the world, and the fomenting of new conflicts. There are many reasons for these tensions, including the escalation of armament in an unprecedented manner, particularly nuclear armament, and the failure to achieve progress in eliminating backwardness and in establishing a new international economic system.

In view of these serious developments, which constitute a grave threat to the sovereignty and freedom of many nations, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and President Nicolae Ceausescu emphasize that the primary duty of all states and their leaders and peoples is to work with a constructive spirit and to cooperate persistently in halting the trend leading to confrontation and war and to ensure and consolidate the policy of peace, independent development, and cooperation throughout the world.

3. After making a comprehensive analysis of the situation in the Middle East, the two presidents express their deep anxiety regarding the continued tension in the area and reaffirmed their two countries' conviction that the establishment of a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the Middle East must be based on

complete Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied since 1967, recognition of the inalienable legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination, the establishment of their national entity on their territory, as well as the right of all the peoples of the states in the area to live within secure and recognized borders.

Proceeding from the conviction that the solution of the Palestinian problem is the key to the settlement of the conflict in the Middle East, the Egyptian and Romanian presidents affirm the need for the participation of the legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people in all the negotiations pertaining to the establishment of a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the area.

The two presidents emphasize the need for starting the negotiations as soon as possible for finding a solution to the Palestinian problem based on justice and international law and for intensifying the political and diplomatic efforts for achieving a comprehensive, just, and lasting settlement in the Middle East. These negotiations must take into consideration all the plans put forward for reaching peace in the Middle East as well as the proposals put forward by all the parties directly concerned.

The two presidents believe that through the peace process, it is possible to convene an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations in which all the parties concerned would participate, including the PLO.

The two presidents express profound concern regarding the development of the situation in Lebanon and call for the urgent and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon, for respecting Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, national unity, and territorial integrity, and for creating the circumstances that will enable the Lebanese people to settle their internal problems by themselves without any foreign interference and on the basis of reconciliation and cooperation among all the political forces in Lebanon.

The two presidents emphasized the special importance of achieving solidarity and unity of action among the Arab countries in their joints efforts for solving the Middle East problem and ensuring the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

Expressing concern over the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war, which is causing great human losses and immense material damage, the two presidents called for the immediate halt of military operations and for the start of negotiations for solving the problems between the two neighboring countries on the basis of mutual respect for the national independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and nonintervention in internal affairs — a course which would be in the interest of the Iraqi and Iranian peoples and in the interest of peace and the security of the region and the world.

President Husni Mubarak and President Nicolae Ceausescu expressed determination to continue thier contacts and consultations on the developments in the situation in the Middle East and on ways and means of achieving peace in the area.

The two presidents expressed the belief that the main issue in international relations at present is the struggle for an immediate halt to the arms race and for disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, and the defense of the peoples' rights, including their right to live in freedom and peace.

The two presidents shared the opinion on the need to make every effort to step up the disarmament talks and to adopt specific and effective measures toward disarmament on the basis of mutual confidence and equality in security.

Within this context, the two presidents affirmed the need for the adoption of specific effective measures toward disarmement through a freeze and reduction of military budgets, withdrawl of military forces to within their national borders, removal of foreign military bases, and simultaneous liquidation of military blocs.

The Egyptian and Romanian presidents expressed confidence that a serious contribution toward the adoption of effective measures toward disarmament, beginning with nuclear disarmament, could be made through the creation of nuclear-free zones in the Balkans, the Middle East, and other areas in the world.

Emphasizing the close connection between disarmament and development, the two presidents affirmed that a halt to the arms race and a reduction in military expenditure could provide the necessary circumstances for allocating huge financial, material, and manpower resources for solving the serious problems facing developing countries. This would have a positive impact on the world economy and would strengthen international cooperation, and political and economic stability in all parts of the world.

The Arab Republic of Egypt and the Socialist Republic of Romanian expressed joint determination to do their utmost in cooperation with other states to prevent wars and achieve disarmament for the sake of the peoples' basic right to life, freedom, and peace.

Considering that the problem of medium-range missiles in Europe could threaten world peace and security, the Egyptian and Romanian presidents underline the need for reachingan agreement at the Geneva talks not to deploy such missiles and, at the same time, to withdraw and destroy the existing missiles in order to halt the nuclear arms race and guarantee the security of all parties concerned.

The two presidents welcome the agreement reached at the Madrid Conference on European Security and Cooperation during which it was decided to convene a conference in 1984 for building confidence, for security measures, and for disarmament, and during which it was also decided to take new steps to contribute to the development of the process of peace, security, concord, and cooperation in Europe.

The two presidents believe that the attainment of positive results by the Madrid conference strongly reaffirms the fact that despite the extremely conflict-ridden and difficult circumstances in the current international situation, no problem, however complex, cannot be resolved through negotiations as long as it is tackled with a constructive spirit and as long as the peoples' basic interests, world peace, and security are taken into consideration.

The Egyptian and Romanian presidents believe that building security, consolidating cooperation in Europe, and adopting measures for disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament on the continent, will have a positive effect in strengthening and maintaining stability, security, and peace in the Mediterranean area and throughout the world.

5. Having exchanged views on the situation in Africa, the two presidents emphasize the definite resolve of the African states and peoples to develop freely and independently. The two presidents observed that the African Continent, its peoples, and countries, have received only scant attention in contemporary international relations despite this continent's well-known contribution of abundant raw materials to the building of modern scientific civilization, which many advanced states are enjoying. The states and peoples of the African Continent have the right to attain complete independence. Its peoples have the right to exercise the right of self-determination freely without any foreign interference to ensure their territorial integrity and security, and to choose their economic and social systems without the threat of foreign oppression, suppression, or domination.

At the same time, the two presidents underscore the need for a political solution to the African problems in the interest of the continent's states and peoples.

The Arab Republic of Egypt and the Socialist Republic of Romania emphasize the OAU's important role in the struggle against colonialism, racial discrimination, and racial segregation on the continent. Within this context, the two presidents praised the efforts which have been exerted for the continued reconciliation of the OAU programs with the current and future aspirations of the African countries, especially through boosting economic cooperation and bolstering their political independence by ensuring their economic independence in order to consolidate the solidarity and unity of the African countries.

The two presidents emphasize the urgent need for Namibia to achieve immediate independence and for respecting the Namibian people's right to freely determine their own way to develop in the future in accordance with Security Council Resolution No 434. In this connection, the two presidents strongly condemn the apartheid regime in South Africa for impeding Namibia's independence.

The presidents of Egypt and Romania reaffirm their full support and their countries' strong solidarity with the just struggle of the people of Namibia under the leadership of SWAPO, the sole legitimate representative of the people of Namibia.

The presidents of the two countries affirm the need for the complete and immediate termination of the policy of racial discrimination and apartheid which is pursued by South Africa and for giving the right to the majority in that country to enjoy freedom, equality, and social progress. They strongly condemn the acts of aggression which the racist regime in South Africa is carrying out against neighboring African countries. The two presidents call for an immediate and unconditional end to all incursions against the sovereignty of these states and to all attempts to undermine their stability.

6. The Egyptian and Romanian presidents express their deep concern over the continuation of conflicts in Latin America and Asia. They reaffirm their conviction that all conflicts among states must be solved through peaceful means, negotiations, and with the participation of all the countries concerned for the cause of peace and security on the regional and international levels.

7. The two presidents express their deep concern over the deterioration of the world economic situation, particularly in the developing countries, and emphasize that in view of the increased economic interdependence, the solution of the present world economic crisis requires economic growth not only in the developed countries, but also the acceleration of economic growth in the developing countries, and adopting specific steps for the establishment of a new world economic order.

Since the negotiations which have so far been held between the developed and the developing countries have not produced any significant results, President Husni Mubarak and President Nicolae Ceausescu call for the quick resumption of the comprehensive negotiations at the United Nations on the basis of the initiative of the nonaligned and developing countries, and with the participation of all states in order to find solutions to the most important world economic problems, particularly the problems of the developing countries.

The two presidents agree that the improvement of the world economic situation requires developing wide-scale international economic cooperation; saving international trade from protective and discriminatory measures; achieving a big increase in development aid and other financial resources available to the developed countries; ensuring a just and equitable relationsip between the prices of raw materials and the prices of industrial products; rescheduling the foreign debts of developing countries through effective measures; reducing the interest rates to a reasonable level; enabling the developing countries to secure credit on suitable terms from the financial markets and institutions, and securing modern technology.

The failure to achieve significant results between the developed and developing countries and the deterioration in the situation of the latter demands intensification of consultations among the developing countries to strengthen their solidarity, unity, and negotiating capability. In order to achieve this, the two presidents are devoting much attention to convening a summit conference for the developing countries to prepare their strategy in negotiations with the developed countries and to agree on measures to strengthen economic cooperation among the developing countries.

8. President Husni Mubarak and President Nicolae Ceausescu reiterate their full support and the full support of their countries for the United Nations, which provides the most suitable place for multilateral negotiations which aim at solving the basic problems of mankind and settling international disputes and conflicts between states by peaceful means. To accomplish this mission, the two presidents believe there is a need to expand the role and effectiveness of the international organization and to develop it in order to face the present and future requirements of the international community. To achieve this, the two presidents welcome the UN General Assembly's endorsement by consensus

of the declaration regarding the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means. They stress the importance of establishing a permanent UN department for good offices, mediation, and conciliation in order to expand the UN contribution to the prevention of conflicts and the solution of existing conflicts by peaceful means.

Since the small and medium states, the nonaligned states, and the developing states, members of the Group of 77, constitute the majority of the international community and have a direct interest in bolstering respect for national independence, cooperation, and world peace, the two presidents emphasize the need to involve all the countries in discussing and solving all the basic problems which face the human race in keeping with the interests of the peoples of the world in giving international relations a democratic character.

President Husni Mubarak and President Nicolae Ceausescu express their satisfaction with the close and fruitful cooperation between Egypt and Romania in the United Nations, the other international organizations, the Group of 77, and the nonaligned group, and with the decision to expand this cooperation.

The president of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the president of the Socialist Republic of Romania express their deep gratitude for the new Egyptian-Romanian summit meeting [words indistinct] which was achieved, confident that they have made a new and valuable contribution toward deepening the close bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation for the good and benefit of the Egyptian and Romanian peoples and for the good of world peace, independent development, progress, and international cooperation.

Joint Statement Summarizes Visit

NC221232 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu have declared that the volume of economic exchanges between the two countries will reach $1 billion in 1985. The two presidents also affirmed that the joint declaration which was signed today is considered an important document that helps develop and diversify mutually beneficial relations between the two countries.

This was contained in the joint statement issued today on the Romanian president's visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. The following is the text of the statement:

Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, and Mrs Elena Ceausescu paid a friendly and official visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt during the period 19-22 October at the invitation of Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

During the visit, the president of the Socialist Republic of Romania laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers and the tomb of late President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat. The Romanian guests also visited several economic, social, and cultural sites in Aswan and Abu Sunbul. Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Mrs Elena Ceausescu, and the accompanying officials received a warm welcome in the places they visited in Egypt — a welcome expression of the traditional ties and close relations between the two countries and of the feelings of amity and mutual respect between the friendly Romanian and Egyptian peoples.

Muhammad Husni Mubarak, the president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and Nicolae Ceausescu, the president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, held talks in an atmosphere of understanding, amity, and mutual respect.

The talks were attended on the Egyptian side by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din; Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Wajih Shindi, international investment and cooperation minister; Dr Mustafa as-Sa'id, economy and foreign trade minister; Dr Muhammad as-Sayyid al-Gharuri, industry and mineral resources minister; Presidential Secretary General 'Izz ad-Din Mukhtar; Muhammad Sa'id as-Sa'id, director of the East Europe section at the Foreign Ministry; and Egyptian ambassador to Bucharest Muhammad Wafiq Husni.

The talks were attended on the Romanian side by Elena Ceausescu, first deputy prime minister; Gheorghe Oprea, first deputy prime minister and head of the Romanian side to the Joint Committee for Economic and Technological Cooperation between Egypt and Romania; Foreign Affairs Minister Stefan Andrei; Romanian presidential adviser Constantin Mitea; Romanian Ambassador in Cairo Ion Iosefide; Deputy Foreign Minister Adrian Stoica; and Marcel Dinu, director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Directorate for Asia, Middle East, and Oceania.

During the talks the two presidents exchanged information on the economic and social objectives of the two countries and reviewed the current level of bilateral cultural, scientific, technological, economic, and political relations and also other spheres of mutual interest. They also exchanged views on the main international questions, particularly the situation in the Middle East.

On the basis of the joint desire to nurture the amicable relations between the two countries and peoples, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and President Nicolae Ceausescu signed the joint declaration on the steady development of cooperation between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Socialist Republic of Romania. This declaration is an important document that will help further and diversify relations of mutual benefit between the two countries and expand their cooperation in the international arena.

During the discussions of the level and scope of bilateral relations, emphasis was placed on increasing trade and cooperation in the fields of industry, agriculture, communications, and other fields of mutual interests.

On the basis of their satisfaction with the steady development of these relations, the two presidents affirmed the importance of increasing the volume of economic exchanges to reach $1 billion in 1985. The two presidents observed that the two sides have taken effective steps to attain the aims agreed upon on the

summit level following the convocation of the 14th session of the joint governmental committee for economic and technical cooperation in Cairo in May 1983 and the discussions which took place btween the prime ministers of the two countries in Bucharest last July. It was decided that the joint Romanian-Egyptian committee should work on issuing a joint and defined working program aimed at further developing the economic exchanges during the convocation of the second session of the committee in Bucharest in 1984.

The following documents were signed during the Romanian president's visit to Egypt:

1. The joint declaration on the steady development of cooperation between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Socialist Republic of Romania.

2. A memorandum on economic and technical cooperation and commercial exchanges.

3. An agreement for bilateral technical cooperation.

The two presidents expressed their complete satisfaction with the fact that Egypt and Romania have close and identical views on international problems. During the discussions, the two presidents also expressed their intense concern over the acute tension in international relations. They emphasized the need to exert greater efforts to overcome this situation in the interest of peace. They emphasized the independent development and cooperation among nations in order to halt the arms race and achieve disarmament, particularly of nuclear weapons, to eliminate backwardness and establish a new international economic order, to settle conflicts by peaceful means through negotiations, and to add a democratic aspect to international relations.

The two presidents paid special attention to the situation in the Middle East, Europe, and Africa.

The two presidents expressed their profound satisfaction with the fruitful results of the new summit dialogue. They emphasized the fact that the official friendship visit which President Nicolae Ceausescu paid to Egypt, and the signing of the joint declaration and the agreements which took place on the occasion of the visit, will be a significant contribution to the development of the traditional sincere relations and strong cooperation between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Socialist Republic of Romania in a manner that will serve the fundamental interests of the Egyptian and Romanian peoples, the cause of peace and understanding throughout the world.

President Nicolae Ceausescu and Elena Ceausescu expressed on their own behalf and that of the accompanying delegation their sincere gratitude to President and Mrs Husni Mubarak, the government, and people of Egypt for the warm welcome and the distinguished hospitality accorded to them during their visit.

President Nicolae Ceausescu and Elena Ceausescu addressed an amicable invitation to President and Mrs Husni Mubarak to pay an official friendship visit to the Socialist Republic of Romania. The invitation was accepted with pleasure and a date for it will be set later through diplomatic channels.

Ceausescu, Mubarak Exchange Cables

NC231616 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA) — Presidnt Muhammad Husni Mubarak has recieved a cable from His Excellency President Nicolae Ceausescu on the occasion of the latter's departure from Egypt. The text of the cable is as follows:

On behalf of my wife and myself, it is my pleasure to express to Your Excellency my sincere gratitude for the generous hospitality and welcome which we were accorded in your country. I believe that this visit, the talks we conducted, the understanding we reached, and the documents we signed will enhance Egyptian-Romanian relations and will give new dimensions to the cooperation between our countries to the benefit of our peoples and international understanding and peace.

I take this opportunity to express to Your Excellency my best wishes for continued health and happiness and for progress and prosperity for the people of Egypt.

President Mubarak sent the following cable in reply to President Ceausescu:

I have received with gratitude the kind cable that you sent following your fruitful visit to our country. I assure Your Excellency that the welcome and hospitality you received only express our friendship and the esteem we hold for you. I am confident that the talks we held and the positive results they bore for strengthening the excellent relations that exist between our nations in the various fields are considered a prominent landmark on the joint course of our nations to achieve just and lasting peace in the Middle East and to serve the causes of international peace and security so as to bring about a more secure and stable society. My dear friend, I hope you will accept my best wishes of good health and happiness for you and of continued success and prosperity for the friendly Romanian people.

Reportage on War Operations Against Iran

Communique No 1,255

JN211756 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Communique No 1,255 issued by the Armed forces General Command on 21 October 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Say: Running away will not profit you if ye are running away from death or slaughter. [Koranic verse]

O proud Iraqis, O sons of our brave Armed Forces, O heroes in the I Army Corps sector: Whenever the clique of crime and evil ruling over Iran persists in its expansionist hostile policy and sick dreams to cross our lofty borders, it finds the gallant Iraqis fully prepared and determined to fight it, destroy its forces, and roll the face of its arch charlatan in the mud of defeat, humiliation, and disappointment.

Despite the massive human and material losses sustained by the aggressor enemy forces in their abortive adventure on the night of 19-20 October 1983 in the northern sector of the battlefield — losses which filled the valleys and mountains of Panjwin with dead troops and destroyed equipment and weapons — the criminal enemy added another crime and spiteful expansionist deed to its record, which is blemished with disgrace and defeat, when it embarked on a new hostile adventure to cross our international borders after midnight yesterday in an attempt to penetrate our defensive positions overlooking the Panjwin basin. The enemy's attempt was foiled following heroic battles in which it sustained massive losses in men and equipment.

In another development — and in a theatrical attempt — the criminal enemy tried to send a group of infiltrators behind our defensive positions into the hills surrounding Panjwin. Our heroic forces confronted the infiltrating force in the early morning and totally eliminated it. None of its elements escaped death. Their torn bodies were left on the battlefield. We will furnish you with the details of the enemy losses later.

All day today our bold fighter planes and capable helicopter gunships bravely confronted the aggressor Iranian force, dealing strong blows to the enemy units and troop concentrations in the northern sector of the battlefield. They concentrated their intensive blows on the enemy personnel and equipment in the Panjwin battle area in the same sector, inflicting massive losses in men and equipment. Our aircrafts' daring actions were characterized by splendid and continuous coordination with our heroic ground forces. The brave pilots of the fighter planes and the valiant knights of the helicopter gunships acted heroically, turning the battlefield into a hell for the spiteful aggressors and transforming the enemy tanks, vehicles, and weapons into destroyed masses gutted by fire.

Other formations of our fighter planes carried out violent raids against enemy concentrations and units deep inside enemy territory, inflicting further losses in men, weapons, and vehicles. All our fighter planes and helicopters returned safely to base after accomplishing all their combat missions, praise be to God. Our fighter planes today carried out 186 combat missions, while our helicopters carried out 84 combat missions.

In confirmation of the enemy's grudge against our proud people, the enemy continued its artillery shelling of Mandali and Khanaqin and their suburbs, Sayyid Sadiq and Panjwin, the (Shandari) area, and Khurmal and its suburbs today. The enemy's savage shelling led to the martyrdom of two citizens in Sayyid Sadiq and the (Shandari) area, the wounding of two women in Panjwin, and the damage of some civilian establishments in the above-mentioned towns and villages.

The suspect aggressors, who are continuing their flagrant aggression against great Iraq and its struggling people, will only reap further disappointment and humiliation. The enemy forces will taste the bitterness of defeats and losses. The valleys and mountains of Panjwin will be large graveyards for the grudge-bearers, with the help of Almighty God, who supports justice and disappoints the greedy charlatans. Glory and might to our great people and glorious nation.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 October 1983

Iranian Losses Total 4,735

JN221145 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1128 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] Panjwin, north Iraq, 22 Oct (INA) — An Iraqi field commander said today that as of 2000 yesterday, the Iranian losses in the 29th Brigade battle area had reached 3,235 soldiers killed. The commander told an INA correspondent in the operational sector that this figure is in addition to the losses announced by the Iraqi military spokesman the day before yesterday which amounted to 1,500 dead. He told the correspondent that he saw the bodies of the Iranian soldiers littering the battlefield in addition to a great number of wounded and captured enemy troops and a great quantity of abandoned weapons of various types, vehicles, and military equipment.

The Iranian losses announced so far amount to 4,735 dead. The other areas of the front are full of enemy dead and wounded soldiers whose numbers have not yet been counted.

Communique No 1,256

JN221842 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1720 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Communique No 1,256 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 22 October 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To those who transgressed, we meted out retribution, and it was due from us to aid those who believed. [Koranic verse]

Our valiant army continues to fight the army of the suspect aggressors in the I Army Corps sector in a splendid and great manner. Our army's intrepid soldiers in this sector are recording heroic feats which will go down in history and which are taking place with God's blessing because they are on the road to justice.

The I Army Corps is successfully carrying out its combat missions in implementation of the Armed Forces General Command's flexible concept and plan to exhaust the enemy's force and wipe it out. History will witness that in implementation of these plans and in view of our daring and disciplined action, we have destroyed and dirtied the foreheads of the largest number of aggressors in the history of the war.

Yesterday evening and today, our valiant units continued to put pressure on the enemy and to inflict the heaviest losses yet. Our units are still fighting the enemy with all types of weapons. Our valiant forces scored a new victory as they succeeded in recapturing Hill No 1,524 ['Aridah-Hirjaynah] from the claws of the enemy after completely exterminating one regiment of the so-called Qamar Bani Hashim Brigade and most of the so-called (Sajjad) regiment. Those who were able to do so escaped from God's inferno and the inferno of the Iraqis. The enemy sustained its most humiliating defeat in this battle.

Known enemy losses sustained during the past 2 days that have been counted so far are as follows: 3,235 killed, whose bodies still litter the battlefield; large numbers of wounded and prisoners of war; and large quantities of various types of military hardware, including large quantities of light- and medium-range weapons destroyed. The enemy also sustained additional losses elsewhere in the same sector when many were killed, wounded, or captured. Six tanks, seven personnel carriers, and six 106-mm guns were also destroyed. Those manning two of these 106-mm guns were killed. Our forces also destroyed 19 vehicles, 9 of which were carrying personnel; 7 excavators; and 1 antiaircraft gun.

Since this morning, our fighter aircraft and helicopters have been carrying out the fiercest raids on enemy positions and troop concentrations in the northern sector of the battlefield and have been intensively attacking enemy units in the areas where battles are raging in the Panjwin sector. Our aircraft dealt severe blows to the enemy, inflicted heavy losses in life and equipment on its forces, and scored direct hits against the enemy's military targets deep inside enemy territory in the same sector.

Our valiant eagles and daring knights, in cooperation with our valiant [ground] units, have played an important role in confronting the treacherous Iranian aggression and in destroying and wiping out the aggressors' offensives. They transformed the battlefield into large graveyards that swallowed the enemy and its damaged military hardware and weapons. All of our fighter aircraft and helicopters returned safely to base, praise be to God. Our fighter aircraft carried out 192 combat missions today, while our helicopters carried out 52 combat missions.

Thus, the Iraqi sword will be the stronger and the most trenchant and the banner of our lofty people and our able army will continue to flutter in the skies, while the banner of the Iranian aggressors and their suspect regime will fly at half-mast, soiled with defeat and humiliation. God is great, victory to our steadfast Iraq and to our valiant army, and ignominy to the charlatans in Qom and Tehran.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 22 October 1983

Commander on Strategy

JN230835 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (INA) — The commander of the Al-Qa'qa' forces in the Panjwin basin has stressed that the Iranian agressors have totally failed to achieve the desired aims of their attack due to the heroism and steadfastness of our brave army fighters.

In a statement to a team from the newspaper *Ath-Thawrah* published today, the commander added that the fierce fighting and valor with which our forces confronted the vile enemy on the Panjwin axes exhausted the momentum of the enemy forces, inflicted large losses on them, and prevented them from achieving their hostile aims.

He added that the Iraqi forces are closely monitoring the movements of the enemy forces and the positions they choose to attack and are quite ready to strike at the enemy forces whenever they try to attack. He emphasized that the destiny of the aggressor forces will be similar to that of the forces annihilated east of Basra.

Staff Colonel Kamil Sajit, commander of the 29th Brigade, spoke to the team about the battles his forces waged against the Iranian attacks and said: The battles which have been continuing since the night of 19-20 [October 1983] are based on the method of exhausting and destroying the enemy. The situation will remain so until the aggressors stop their attacks and admit their failure to achieve their aims.

He added that the defensive plans, which were carried out with accurate coordination among all units, were aimed at dragging the aggressors to positions that make it easier to destroy them.

The *Ath-Thawrah* team said that they saw the valiant fighters of our Kurdish people, who joined their brothers in the Armed Forces to repulse the vile Khomeyniite aggression, actively participating in the fighting, thus affirming their genuine affiliation with great Iraq.

In a statement to the *Al-Jumhuriyah* team in the northern sector published today, the I Army Corps commander emphasized that the enemy's recent aggression against the Panjwin sector came as an extension of the Iranian regime's expansionist aims. He added that the Iranian aggression was doomed to utter failure and failed to achieve the desired aims. He described the Panjwin battle as one of the fiercest ever waged in this sector, adding that hand- to-hand fighting took place and that the enemy sustained massive losses in men and equipment.

The *Ath-Thawrah*, *Al-Jumhuriyah*, and *Al-'Iraq* teams in the northern sector of the battlefield reported from a forward observation post that they saw tongues of fire devouring Khomeyni's tanks and vehicles. They also saw the enemy tank crews and other troops flee in panic before the Iraqi forces' advance into the eastern part of Panjwin after the enemy had failed to harm the steadfast town. They also reported seeing hundreds of Iranian bodies scattered near their destroyed vehicles, equipment, and weapons.

80,000 Iranians Fighting

JN231154 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (INA) — Iraq has carried out its plans to reply to the Iranian aggression against the border towns and villages. A military spokesman announced today that the Iraqi Air Force and surface-to-surface missile batteries directed deterrent strikes at selected targets deep inside Iranian territory and at areas of military concentrations. The military spokesman stressed that Iraq will deal further painful blows if Iran continues to attack our lands and harm our border towns.

Earlier, the Iraqi Navy had successfully mined the area leading to Bandar-e Khomeyni. A military spokesman yesterday warned the parties cooperating with the Iranian regime against sending their ships to the above-mentioned area.

These Iraqi measures came after clear warnings calling on the Iranian side to stop its retaliatory operations against the secure border towns and its aggression against Iraq. Iraq's warnings prior to the Iranian offensive against the Panjwin area were quite clear. Iraq stressed that any new aggression would be confronted very firmly and in a manner that would greatly harm the attacking force and prompt Iraq to strike deep inside Iranian territory and at selected targets. This is what the Iraqi military spokesman announced today.

Regarding the battles which have been raging since midnight Wednesday, the Iraqi field commanders emphasized that the Iranian forces failed to achieve any of their aims despite their large number — a number estimated by the I Army Corps commander to be 80,000 fighters. The same commander said that the fierce battles have so far led to the destruction of four enemy regiments, two brigades, a large number of personnel and equipment, some regiments from the 28th, 21st, and 88th Divisions, and a large part of the division called (Salmanah), which consists of armor, infantry, special forces, and irregulars.

Pause in Fighting

JN231446 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1428 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] We have just received the following:

The I Army Corps commander has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Following the painful blows dealt to the unjust enemy in the northern sector the night before last and yesterday morning, the enemy did not carry out any activities worthy of mention. The enemy resorted only to artillery shelling. This is another proof of the great losses it sustained during its aggressive operations over the past few days. Nevertheless, information available to us indicates that the enemy is attempting to gather the remnants of its forces to mount desperate adventures in the same sector, which demands further alertness from our I Army Corps in order to confront the unjust enemy and deal more painful blows to it, both through our prearranged operations or with fresh operations as necessary if the enemy repeats its attempts.

In any case, the enemy will suffer further defeats and more losses. God grants us success.

[Signed] The staff major general, commander of the I Army Corps, 23 October 1983

Communique No 1,257

JN231800 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Communique No 1,257 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 23 October 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

If ye will aid the cause of God, he will aid you and plant your feet firmly. [Koranic verse]

Every time Khomeyni's henchmen try their luck by crossing Iraq's proud borders and sending their forces of aggression to violate our chaste soil and proud people, they send the sons of Iran to the grinding mill which has no mercy on the covetous aggressors. Our heroic Armed Forces are fighting the forces of evil and darkness; confronting the covetous enemies in defense of Iraq's land, hills, and valleys; and inflicting on the aggressive Iranians immense losses and continuing defeats.

The results of last night and today's operations are as follows:

1. Our brave units in the I Army Corps sector are continuing to pressure and strike at enemy forces in order to inflict the maximum losses possible on them. Our units killed 343, wounded many more, and captured a number of enemy troops. They destroyed 7 tanks, 5 armored personnel carriers, 6 106-mm guns, 30 vehicles of various kinds and 3 hardware stockpiles. Our forces captured a number of serviceable weapons, vehicles, and military equipment.

2. Our daring fighter planes and capable helicopters today continued their raids against enemy positions and troop concentrations in the northern sector of the front, concentrating on its units opposite our positions in the Panjwin area. Our planes scored very accurate, effective hits against enemy targets. Other formations of our daring planes carried out strong deterrent attacks against enemy concentrations and supply routes in the same sector and deep inside enemy territory, scoring accurate, effective hits. Our planes destroyed a number of various types of vehicles, weapons, and military equipment, and set fire to several enemy positions and equipment. All our planes and helicopters returned safely to their bases, thanks be to God.

3. One was killed, others wounded, and an observation post destroyed in the central sector of the front.

4. Two vehicles, one excavator, and two infantry positions were destroyed in the area east of Basra.

5. The artillery of the spiteful Khomeyniite clique shelled Ash-Shihabi Subdistrict and its environs and the (Shandri) Sub

district. The shelling damaged an elementary school and a house in Ash-Shihabi.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 October 1983

10 Iranian Divisions Fought

JN232108 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2004 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (INA) — The commander of Iraq's I Army Corps has said that 10 regular Iranian Army divisions took part in the recent abortive Iranian offensive against the Panjwin area, northern Iraq. The commander told an INA correspondent in a forward position at the front that the Iranian Army command pulled out large parts of its forces from the central and southern sectors before the offensive. The commander said that the Iranian offensive began on 13 primary and secondary axes, all aimed at the border township of Panjwin from which they could move on to the other hills and positions. He said the Iranian forces failed on all these axes and that they are now standing in humiliation behind Iraq's international borders.

The commander revealed that the Iranian forces are preparing for another offensive but said that any new offensive will be severely crushed.

During the recent offensive the Iranian forces lost 3,578 dead in addition to a great number of wounded and captured soldiers and dozens of vehicles and tanks destroyed.

Fighting Resumes

JN240725 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0855 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Despite the losses sustained by the suspect and reckless collaborators of the charlatan and despite the tragedies suffered by the sons of the Iranian peoples as a result of the war and their foolhardy attempts of the past days, and after they have desisted from carrying out any important activites during the past 2 days, they gathered what remained of their forces, as we expected, to carry out a new foolhardy action on the night of 23-24 October. Thus, they resumed their aggression in an attempt to achieve the evil dream of charlatan Khomeyni. However, as was the case in previous attempts, they faced the same faithful sons of our valiant Army under the I Army Corps command. They have faced and will continue to face the fate which they deserve, God willing — dismemberedbodies which will be swallowed up by the fire of our guns. The Iraqis' enthusiasm is increasing and becoming more firmly entrenched to become a solid wall which cannot be harmed or penetrated by the strongest forces of evil and oppression and a wall which will prevent the covetous from achieving their designs, make their foreheads bleed, and keep Iraq lofty and strong. This is the undwindling faith and the bountiful offering. Death to the enemies and God is great. 24 October 1983

Ramadan on Iranian Attack

JN211503 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Oct (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the RCC and commander in chief of the Popular Army, has stressed that the desperate attempts being made by the forces of the Khomeyniite clique of charlatanism and jugglery against Iraq's pure land will be doomed to destruction and annihilation. The repercussions of these attempts will be disastrous for this clique, God willing.

During a meeting with the sectors' commanders and their assistants in a training camp in the Al-Anbar Popular Army headquarters, the Popular Army commander said that the racist Iranian regime's aggression against the I Army Corps sector will be doomed to utter fialure. He added that the enemy will not achieve any of its hostile aims against our struggling country because the valiant Iraqi people are lying in wait for the enemy forces in order to teach them new lessons on how the Iraqis defend every inch of their cherished land.

He added that the Iranian forces' desperate attempts will not change our defensive plans and our decisive, extensive confrontation of any new criminal aggression anywhere in Iraq and along the confrontation lines. He said that the new aggression against Iraq will place Khomeyni and his suspect henchmen before difficult and complicated choices because it will force them to replace thousands of dead lost through this clique's criminal aggression. It will also increase the Iranian people's indignation against their jugglers, grudge-bearers, and charlatans.

President Honors Brigade

JN240843 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0740 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

From Saddam Husayn to the commander, unit commanders, and soldiers of the valiant 5th Infantry Brigade: We are following with great pride the heroic feats of your brigade with all its valiant fighters, whether in the successful defense against the sorcerers, the aides of the charlatan, or in the daring raids which your brigade carried out against the positions of the evil and unjust enemy.

Thus, this brigade has maintained the good reputation it enjoys among our Armed Forces. In appreciation of the courage and heroism of your brigade in the past and present battles, we have decided to bestow on your brigade the Ar-Rafidayn military medal of the first degree.

Blessed are you the faithful men and good sons of great Iraq. God is great and loftiness is for those who excel in their faith and courage. Death to the enemies of Iraq and the Arab nation.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, 24 October 1983

Kurds Volunteer To Fight

JN211313 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Text] Thousands of our Kurdish people have rushed to the centers of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, trade unions, and popular unions, and to the administrative units in the autonomous area in order to volunteer to carry arms and to leave immediately for the front lines in order to join our brave armed forces in opposing the malicious Iranian regimes's aggression against the Panjwin sector. Districts, subdistricts, and villages in this area's governorates were overcrowded with the citizens volunteering to carry arms and sacrifice themselves to defend the soil of great Iraq.

When they received the volunteers, officials of the Ba'th centers and administrative units praised the volunteers' great patriotism, affirming that any reckless adventure by the charlatan Khomeyni regime on our homeland's border will be doomed to failure because of the wisdom of our historical leadership represented by the extraordinary leader President Saddam Husayn; the bravery of our courageous army; and the readiness of our people to continue offering and sacrificing.

The officials at these centers and popular organizations went to work despite the Friday holiday, expressing readiness to carry arms and join our brave armed forces in dealing heavy blows to the Iranian regime's forces of aggression.

Officials Deny Attempt on Saddam Husyan

JN220656 Amman Sawt Ash-Sha'b in Arabic 22 Oct 83 p 1

[Text] Baghdad, News agencies — Iraqi officials yesterday expressed their astonishment at the allegations published by the London *Daily Mail* about an assassination attempt against President Saddam Husyan.

The Iraqi officials affirmed that the Syrians and Iranians have paid the price of the publication of this report to harm Iraq.

The officials noted that the report had strangely coincided with the Iranian aggression against Iraq.

Ramadan Leaves for Gulf States With Messages

JN220832 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, left Baghdad this morning on a visit to a number of the Arab Gulf states. Ramadan told INA that he would deliver messages from President Saddam Husyan to the amirs of a number of the Arab Gulf states on bilateral relations. He will also hold deliberations with them on the current Arab situation, particularly the war launched by Iran against our country. Ramadan said that during the visit discussions will be held on deepening the means of coordination with the Gulf states to enhance capabilities and confront the challenges facing the Arab nation.

Tariq 'Aziz Makes Short Stopover in Paris

JN221230 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] It was learned in Paris that Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in the French capital this morning from New York aboard a private plane. This plane was scheduled to land at Orly Airport, but it was rerouted to La Bourget Airport for security reasons, as is generally believed here. According to available information, Tariq 'Aziz' program does not include any official engagements in the French capital, which he will leave tomorrow, Sunday, for Baghdad.

Arrives in Baghdad

JN231810 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1752 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Baghdad tonight. 'Aziz had led the Iraqi delegation to the 38th UN General Assembly session in New York.

AR-RA'Y Blames Israel For Beirut Explosions

JN240816 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 24 Oct 83

[From the press review]

[Text] *Ar-Ra'y* says: Because we are part of this great nation — this nation which cannot betray its values, principles, and ethics — we were shocked by the two explosions yesterday which caused the death of scores of U.S. and French soldiers in Beirut. As we feel sadness and misfortune after every aggression against our nation resulting in the death of scores of our women, youths, old persons, and children without finding any party to condemn or denounce the aggressors with us, similarly yesterday we felt the same sadness and misfortune because the U.S. and French soldiers who were burnt, suffocated, or scattered in pieces under stones had also fallen on the road to Palestine.

Ar-Ra'y adds: We have always cautioned against jumping to conclusions over causes and against the danger of handling the present without considering the past of the future. We have always called attention to the fact that the Middle East problem is only a framework of the core issue — Palestine, and that the Lebanese crisis is a result of the blatant, continuous, and escalating aggression against the Palestinian people and their rights to their land, sovereignty, and honor. If there is any party that must be accused of perpetrating this crime, it is certainly Israel; and if there is any party that must be held responsible for the U.S. and French victims, it is also Israel, and Israel alone. The injustice which Israel has exercised for decades cannot but fill the region with the causes for eruptions and collapse and open the door wide for the death machine to devour those parties whether near or far away.

Ar-Ra'y concludes: While we share the U.S. and French peoples their sadness and misfortune, we hope for only one thing; namely, that the United States, France, all Western countries, and the world community will realize that justice is the right of all people and that injustice which takes place in a limited area of land will be unlimited in its revenge. Thus, the curse of Palestine will continue to chase all nations, peoples, and governments until they collectively move to force Israel to adhere to values and principles and to respond to the world community's will, resolutions, and recommendations as well as to recognize the Palestinian people's rights to their land. In the absence of all this, the possibilities of conflict, fighting, infighting, horror, and terror will abound in the region and nobody will be safe from being burned by its fires.

JORDAN TIMES Comments on Beirut Explosions

JN241156 Amman Jordan Times in English 24 Oct 83 p 4

[Editorial: "The Vicious Circle Expands"]

[Text] The terrible loss of life among the American and French contingents of the Multinational Force in Beirut on Sunday is shocking and deplorable. If such acts of violence and merciless killing, which have been the hallmark of a Middle East torn by strife and bloodshed for many years now, are allowed to continue for much longer, we must brace ourselves for the worst, for the worst is coming

On a sad occasion like this, individuals, peoples, and governments sit to think about it all and mull over things. Just when plans for a Lebanese national reconciliation near completion, this blast comes to throw doubts over every sincere effort towards the restoration of Lebanon. Is there a conspiracy to set the clock back on what has been accomplished already? Or is it just another revenge-taking act, designed to prevent peace from returning to this region, after a long and hard absence?

Over the past year, troops of the international peacekeeping force have been made to pay with their lives for the quagmire of Lebanon's deadly politics. Many Lebanese, Syrians, and Palestinians have also perished either fighting for survival or jockeying for positions. Almost everybody, however, has had to suffer from the wrath Israel brought unto Lebanon and the Arab World, right from the day the Zionist state sent its invasion army across the Lebanese border.

It would have been totally unnecessary for the French, the Americans or, for that matter, any nation to send their best boys to be killed in Lebanon today, if the international community could in the first place restrain the Israelis from pushing to Beirut last summer. And something else could have been done to avert the latest cycle of violence, in the Ash-Shuf mountains and around Beirut, if Israel did not have so much of a free hand to make its partial withdrawal to the Al-Awwali River last month.

Time and again, the Arabs warned against Israel's dangerous policies in the region, its adventures and forays in neighbouring states, and against the consequences of such irresponsible practices, that the world almost turned a deaf ear to our warnings and pleas. Still, Israel did not seem to care; and, tomorrow, it will have all been only the Arabs' fault that so many are being killed, in the eyes of the Israeli military regime and its Zionist lobby.

This is not the time to lay the blame on anybody for the failure to cut Israel down to size during all these past years. But, for all we know, Israel takes a large and direct responsibility for those who masterminded and carried out the outrageous massacre of American and French troops in Beirut on Sunday.

Palestinians, Not Lebanon, Main Regional Issue

JN210922 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0520 GMT 21 Oct 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Reagan's Plan Between the Palestine Cause and the Lebanese Problem," *Ar-Ra'y* says: At his news conference yesterday, President Reagan asserted his determination to continue the work to achieve the peace plan which he announced in last September to solve the Palestinian problem. He also said that this will be linked primarily with solving the Lebanese problem.

This assertion indicates that the U.S. Administration has done something to achieve this plan. However, the course of events since the plan was announced has shown that the U.S. Administration remained silent toward Israel, which rejected the plan the moment it was declared and hastened to intensify settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory in order to deprive the [Palestinian] cause of its base —namely, the land — and to abort in advance any attempt to reach a just settlement.

Ar-Ra'y continues: Linking the continuation of the Reagan plan with solving the Lebanese problem means that the U.S. Administration considers the Lebanese problem the central issue in the region. This is contrary to the fact everyone accepts that the Palestinian problem is the central issue in the region. It is possible to say that the conflagration in Lebanon is the one that gave the Lebanese problem the leading place, but this explanation will not justify freezing the Palestinian problem until the Lebanese problem is solved. Neither can we believe that the Reagan plan has succeeded in activating the [Palestinian] issue.

Our aim is to point out that linking the two problems in such a way will keep the Palestinian problem frozen until further notice. Consequently, such a trend will give Israel more opportunities to continue its settlement policy, the goal of which is to liquidate, the Palestinian cause.

Ar-Ra'y concludes: In light of this outcome, it would be better for the U.S. Administration to cooperate with the international community, which unanimously agrees that the real path to achieving just and comprehensive peace in the region is represented by convening an international conference in which all concerned parties would participate.

Materials on Bombings of U.S., French Positions

Initial Beirut Radio Report

NC230515 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0504 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Greater Beirut, which slept with the sound of shelling, awoke this morning to the boom of two explosions against the French and U.S. forces operating within the Multiantional Force. According to inconclusive and unofficial information, two boobytrapped cars were detonated by remote control outside a building occupied by the French forces near Verdun Street and outside a position of the Marines forces in the Cocodi quarter on the airport road.

The information says that many victims fell and a four-storey building was demolished. Thus far, the bodies of eight French soldiers have been removed from the building.

Rescue Teams Remove Bodies

NC230539 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0523 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] According to the latest information, French and U.S. rescue teams are now pulling victims from under the rubble of the two buildings which were destroyed by two explosions this morning. The first explosion took place at 0620 at a building occupied by the U.S. forces near the customs building at the airport. The entire building collapsed. The second explosion occurred a few minutes later at a building occupied by the French forces near Beirut Hospital on Spinney Street. The building was completely demolished. Thus far, over eight bodies have been pulled out.

Civil Defense Seeks Help

NC230610 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0552 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Telephone dispatch by unidentified civil defense worker — live]

[Text] Thus far, the number of the victims who have been removed from the airport is as follows: 40 bodies of Marines and 3 civilians. Work is continuing. In Spinney's, we have removed two bodies. Work is still continuing. There are persons still under the rubble and we can hear their voices. I call on all those who are listening to us and who have tractors and bulldozers to come and help us. We will be grateful.

Beirut: 20-25 Marines Killed

NC230622 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0538 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Greater Beirut, which last night slept to the sound of shelling on the eastern and southern suburbs, awoke this morning with the boom of two massive explosions that everyone in Beirut felt had taken place near their environs. It transpired later that the two explosions occurred in two buildings. One building is occupied by the French forces and the other by the Marines.

Security sources reported that the first explosion occurred at 0620 in a building occupied by the U.S. Marines near the Cocodi opposite the Gendarmerie post on the Beirut International Airport road. The entire building collapsed. A few minutes later, another explosion occurred at an eight-storey building occupied by the French force in the area of Spinney's near the Iranian Embassy and Beirut Hospital.

Information about the two explosions is still fragmentary since they occurred almost simultaneously. The information says that the explosions could have been caused by old mines inside the two buildings and detonated by remote control this morning, or that two boobytrapped cars had entered the two buildings simultaneously and were detonated by remote control, or that two Grad rockets had fallen simultaneously on the two buildings and caused the catastrophe.

According to the latest inconclusive information, 20 to 25 Marines and 10 French soldiers were killed. The French and U.S. rescue teams are removing the bodies from the rubble. Civil defense men are removing the persons on top of whom the building collapsed. Cries for help can be heard from under the rubble.

Explosions at U.S. Command

NC230714 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0646 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Excerpt] Rescue operations continue unabated at the U.S. contingent's command headquarters and at the French company's headquarters in the Cocodi area.

The latest information states that about 40 bodies of Marines have been removed to this time. No other details are available about the number. There are new casualties inside the main airport building that were caused by the explosion. Most of the casualties occurred among civilian passengers and among those who were at the airport to meet their relatives who were to arrive from abroad.

Newsmen were banned from approaching the scene of the incident and they were held for about 1 hour in the Cocodi area before they were allowed to reach the airport.

The reasons for the bombings remain as yet unclear, as we have said, pending official reports that military experts of the French and U.S. contingents are preparing and pending official information. Meanwhile, information has been reiterated that it is likely that a car bomb blew up the French company's headquarters, and that the explosion of an ammunition dump in the U.S. command's headquartes has caused the explosion. The reason is that, to this time, some explosions are still being heard in the area of the U.S. command.

In another development, a Beirut International Airport official source told the Voice of Lebanon a while ago that traffic at the airport has not come to a standstill. Takeoffs and landings are still in progress.

Beirut Update on Casualties

NC230735 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0702 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] The number of victims of the two explosions at a Marine headquarters near Beirut International Airport and another French forces headquarters has risen to 63 dead, including 42 Marines, and 18 French soldiers and 3 civilians.

Civil defense teams have pulled out alive a Japanese soldier who was with the Marines at the civil aviation building near the airport and another French soldier at the French headquarters near the Iranian Embassy, where the explosion took place.

The bodies of the Marines will be transported to the U.S. military helicopter landing area so as to take them to a field hospital aboard one of the U.S. aircraft carriers.

Strict security measures have been taken by the Army and Marine forces all along the road from the Cocodi up to Beirut International Airport. U.S. Marine and Lebanese civil defense ambulances are removing the bodies. Those who are still alive under the rubble are being rescued. Meanwhile, a Marine helicopter is flying over the area.

Journalists and photographers have been prevented from approaching the scene of the incident and cars have been banned from parking on both sides of the airport road.

Marine Spokesman Quoted

NC230841 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0805 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Marine spokesman Major Robert Jordan has explained that a truck loaded with explosives emerged from the public parking lot to the west of the airport road and rushed toward the building which is occupied by about 100 Marines and blew it up. He described the incident as horrible. He said he had not seen anything like it since the Vietnam war.

120 Bodies Recovered

NC230823 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0740 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Telephone Dispatch from Editorial Room — live]

[Text] As part of the security measures being taken by the Army at Beirut International Airport and outside the Cocodi where the explosion took place, Army Commander General Ibrahim Tannus and Colonel Mustafa Nasir, commander of the judicial police, have arrived on the scene. Military expert Yusuf Bitar also arrived and estimated that the explosions were caused by 300 kg of TNT.

The Army has cut the airport road at the Cocodi point. According to unofficial and unconfirmed information, about 120 bodies have thus far been removed from under the rubble.

The spokesman for the French contingent in Beirut, who was at the scene of the incident near Spinney's, said the explosion was premeditated and that the French soldiers were equipped only with unexplosive ammunition.

The rescue work was organized 1 hour after the explosion in cooperation with the French soldiers, the Lebanese Army, the civil defense, and Lebanese Army vehicles.

We have just received a report that Air France and Alia airlines have canceled their flights to Beirut airport today.

RFL: Gunmen Obstructing Rescue

NC231600 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] The socialist and Shi'ite gunmen and their collaborators are directing sniper fire against Beirut airport and the periophery of the demolished Marine headquarters in a bid to obstruct the rescue operations. Lebanese Army positions on the approaches to the College of Sciences and in the southern suburb of the capital are now being subjected to mortar shelling and medium-caliber weapons fire from the gunmen's positions in Ash-Shuwayfat and Laylaki. The Army positions in Dahr al-Wash, Suq al-Gharb, and 'Ayn ar-Rummanah are also coming under machinegun fire from 'Aytat and 'Alay.

In another development, rescue operations are continuing, and voices calling for help are still being heard amid the debris.

Rescue Teams Fired Upon

NC231723 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1710 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Shots were fired at the rescue teams working to vacate the dead and wounded near the airport. Antiarmor shells were also fired at the U.S. forces near the College of Sciences.

VOL Sees Syrian Involvement

NC230816 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0717 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Excerpts] A few moments ago, well-informed security sources told us that at 0910 30 Marines were rescued from under the collapsed building. We have also been informed that most of the Marine victims were apparently on their morning exercises.

Also, at approximately 0905, another body of a Frenchman was removed and, therefore, the number has risen to 19 French martyrs. In addition, seven injured French soldiers been rescued from under the collapsed building. Rescue operations are continuing.

Our correspondent stated that spent machinegun cartridges have been found near the guard booth outside the U.S. command headquarters. This indicates, according to a U.S. officer, that the building guards had exchanged gunfire with the assailants, or

with the driver of a booby-trapped car that caused the collapse of the building.

Our correspondent also noted the following: In the perimeter of the U.S. command headquarters, mangled and disfigured bodies are scattered at random. It is very difficult to identify these bodies, with the excpetion of those wearing U.S. military uniforms. Extensive damage was done to the buildings of the airport, the establishments of the civilian aviation safety directorate, the offices of Middle East Airlines, and residential and commercial buildings situated in the area extending from the Cocodi traffic circle to the airport. Our correspondent also informed us that a number of citizens were hit inside the airport.

Our correspondent has also noticed that U.S. warships have drawn very close to the Lebanese coast off the airport.

Our correspondent has also learned that the Marines and Lebanese Army units have been placed on maximum alert.

About 1 month ago, the Voice of Lebanon indicated terrorist plans aimed against the Multinational Force in Beirut and for which preparations were being made in the Al-Biqa' and Ba'labakk. Specifically, yesterday, we noted the arrival this week in Beirut of Syrian intelligence officers to undertake specific tasks. We also mentioned that the most senior of these officers was present in a certain embassy.

VOL on Iranian 'Terrorism'

NC231857 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in English 1835 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned that a meeting was held 10 days ago at the Iranian Embassy in Beirut. This meeting included Iranian diplomats, who are actually members of the Iranian secret service, who acted in Lebanon as diplomats, and Syrian intelligence officers who came to the southern suburb of the capital, Beirut, with forged Lebanese cards.

Discussions during these meetings have touched on means to carry out acts of terrorism against the Marines in Lebanon in order to force President Reagan to pull them out and enable Syria to get full control over Lebanon.

Islamic Group Claims Responsibility

NC231855 Paris AFP in English 1850 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Beirut, Oct 23 (AFP) — The previously unknown Free Islamic Revolutionary Movement today claimed responsibility for this morning's murderous attacks on buildings used by the French and U.S. contingents in the Multinational Force in Lebanon. An unidentified caller said that two of the movement's mujaheddin (fighters) had died as they made their "attack against the headquarters of American and French imperialism in Beirut".

The men who died were named as Abu Mazin, 26, and Abu Sij'an, 24.

The caller said the Free Islamic Movement would not rest until Beirut was under control of "revolutionary Moslems and the combative democratic youth."

The Islamic movement supported a Movement for a "greater Syria" which wanted Palestinians to return to Palestine and sought "the liberation of Lebanon from imperialist and isolationist forces and the strengthening of the Moslem revolution in the Arab world".

Beirut Radio on Movement

NC240628 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0555 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Text] AP reports that the Americans will not say who carried out the attack against the Marines. However, those who carried out the attack have rushed to claim responsibility. The Free Islamic Revolution Movement [harakat ath-thawrah as-islamiyah al-hurrah] last night claimed responsibility. In a telephone conversation made by an unknown person, the movement, which had not been heard of before, announced the killing of two of its mujahidin, Abu Mazin, 36 years old, and Abu Sij'an, 24, in storming what it called the U.S.-French imperialist aggression in Beirut. He also expressed full support for the establishment of greater Syria, the return of Palestine to the Palestinians, the liberation of Lebanon from imperialist and isolationist forces, and the consolidation of the Islamic revolution in the entire Arab world, according to the statement made over the telephone.

Iran Denies Involvement

NC240755 Paris AFP in English 0741 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Excerpts] Beirut, Oct 24 (AFP) — French President Francois Mitterrand arrived here unexpectedly early today as the death-toll in yesterday's double bombing was expected to reach 200 and amid suspicions, denied by Iran, that pro-Iranian groups were responsible.

Late yesterday, just as U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger and White House spokesman Larry Speakes spoke of "circumstantial evidence" that Iranian-supported groups were behind the bombings, the previously unknown Free Islamic Revolutionary Movement claimed responsibility.

Iran denied any involvement today. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the United States attempted to lay blame "on this or that country" because it was "incapable of understanding the value of Lebanese resistance". Quoted on Radio Tehran, the spokesman said Washington was seeking to "manipulate public opinion" in order to "justify its weakness and successive defeats in Lebanon".

The Iranian spokesman said the bombings were the "crystalization of the growing anger of the Lebanese Moslems against the direct interference of Western colonial forces".

"It is the just right of a nation to inflict decisive blows by any means on intervention forces and aggressors, in order to end their interference", the spokesman added.

120 Marines, 19 French Dead

NC230926 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0917 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] The number of victims of the explosion at the Marine command headquarters in the Civil Aviation General Directorate has risen to 120 officers and soldiers. The number of the victims of the explosion at the French forces' position in Al-Jnah has reached 19 French soldiers. Nine soldiers were found still alive.

Paris Radio Report

LD230925 Paris Domestic Service in French 0900 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] I have heard just this minute the first toll given by the French command in Beirut: 3 French soldiers killed, 56 reported missing, and 14 injured. This is the first official toll given at 1000 local time by the French command in Beirut. The Lebanese state radio reported 15 French soldiers killed. There are still 56 soldiers reported missing and 3 killed. More information in our next bulletins.

Airport Flights Continue

NC230949 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0917 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] The Civil Aviation Directorate has announced that flights are continuing at Beirut International Airport and that the directorate has kept the passengers and those who came to see them off away from the airport compound for the sake of their safety.

Engineer Pierre al-Khuri, minister of public works and transport, arrived at the Beirut airport a short time ago to inspect the scene of the incident. The new U.S. Ambassador has also inspected the scene of the incident. He was accompanied by embassy staff.

U.S. Wounded to Cyprus

NC231248 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1220 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Ladies and Gentlemen, before continuing with our report on the reactions to the two explosions at the U.S. and French positions, we have just received from the ASSOCIATED PRESS a report in English from Nicosia. I will try to immediately translate this report into Arabic. The report says that the wounded Americans are being transported to the British Royal Air Force base in Cyprus for urgent treatment. Captain (John Willis), commander of the base hospital there, said that 20 American soldiers who have been very seriously wounded have been transported to the hospital in Akrotiri. They are being transpored by military Hercules planes. (Willis) said that his command is in direct contact wit h the U.S. command in Beirut to provide any assistance to the U.S. military officials in Beirut to rescue the wounded soldiers. AP added that this British hospital in Cyprus is the largest British military hospital outside Britain and it is fully equipped.

French Carrier Evacuates Wounded

LD231526 Paris Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] We have just heard from a Ministry of Defense statement that the French Aircraft carrier *Clemenceau*, which has been anchored off the Lebanese coast, has now sailed close to the shoreline near Beirut and a fleet of helicopters has begun to ferry out the wounded men of the French contingent of the peacekeeping force. In addition, teams of French experts and heavy equipment are being flown in to Beirut to help with the search operations among the wreckage of the French contingent's building.

Death Toll Rises to 125

NC231539 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1524 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] The latest figure of casualties has risen to 125 dead and 140 injured in the explosion in the U.S. Marine headquarters at the airport. U.S. helicopters have been moving the casualties to U.S. warships. In the meantime, U.S. military planes and a British plane landed at Beirut airport to help in the rescue work and to move the dead and injured to U.S. bases in the FRG. The operations to remove the rubble in search of the missing, estimated at 80 Marines, are continuing.

Regarding the explosion in the French company building, our correspondent reported a short while ago that 6 bodies and 15 injured have so far been pulled out. There are still 52 French soldiers under the rubble. Rescue teams are working to remove the rubble to pull them out. The number of dead so far is 25. Reports say the building consisted of 10 floors and that at the time of the explosion there were 75 French soldiers and 5 Lebanese civilians in the building.

135 Marines, 24 French Killed

NC232028 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] The number of victims in the two explosions at the U.S. Marine command headquarters and the French contingent headquarters in the Al-Jnah locality has risen to 159 martyrs — 135 U.S. Marines and 24 French soldiers.

The latest reports say that a Lebanese family is still under the rubble of the building which was occupied by the French forces. It is the family of Muhyi ad-Din al-Hamawi, who escaped death in the explosion, while his wife and four children are still under the rubble.

French Defense Minister Charles Hernu is currently inspecting the building. He arrived in Beirut this evening. He will hold a news conference in which he will speak to Lebanese and foreign newsmen about the circumstances of the incident.

French Casualties: 39 Dead, 14 Wounded

NC240914 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Text] The Civil Defense Directorate's operations room indicated a short while ago that the civil defense men recovered a body of a French martyr from the debris in Al-Jnah, thus increasing the number of French martyrs to 39 and 14 wounded.

The rescue operations and removal of rubble at the Civil Aviation Directorate building on the airport road are continuing.

Officials Denounce Explosions

NC231351 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan strongly denounced the criminal operation.

[Former] President Camille Sham'un said that it is an organized criminal act because it was carried out at the same time against the U.S. and French headquarters. He said: We condemn both operations strongly and with full conviction. We offer our condolences to the French and U.S. Governments and to the families of the victims. We consider that these victims offered their lives for the sake of establishing security and peace in Lebanon.

Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil described both explosions as odious criminal acts, saying: I strongly denounce these acts, which were carried out by criminal hands that want, by this action, to harm the friendly countries which are working toward Lebanon's security and stability. He called for firm international action to put an end to those who are wreaking havoc on Lebanon's fate by attacking the Multinational Force or fomenting dissension among the Lebanese.

[Former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam said: It is a bestial crime that shakes the consicience of every man. It is a subversive act with political motives and goals. Since fingers are pointed at the sources of planning and implementing, the clear goal is to create an atmosphere of pressure in the United States and France to withdraw the peace forces from Lebanon.

His Beatitude Cardinal Mar Antonius Butrus Khuraysh denounced the explosions against the U.S. Marines headquarters and the French company command. He contacted new U.S. ambassador in Beirut, Bartholomew, and the French charge d'affaires because the French ambassador is in Paris.

[Former] Prime Minister Karami said: I would like to offer condolences to President Reagan and the American people on the victims who fell in the incident that took place near Beirut International Airport. I also offer my condolences to President Mitterrand. We affirm our rejection of violence and these practices.

Al-Wazzan Denounces Explosions

NC230740 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0712 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has denounced the two explosions. He contacted Civil Defense Director Nadim Sham'un by telephone and asked him to use the capabilities of the civil defense to rescue the wounded and remove the dead from under the rubble.

Al-Jumayyil Contacts Al-Wazzan

NC230952 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0917 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has contacted Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim to discuss the developments of the two incidents.

Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan is now chairing a security meeting at the Interior Ministry building at the government house. It is being attended by Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim, Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri, the Interior Ministry director general, the acting director general of the Internal Security Forces, the director general of public security, the police commander, and Nazih Sham'un, representative of the Defense Council Secretariat General, who presented a detailed report on the rescue work.

Justice Minister Urges Investigation

NC231010 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0917 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has denounced the incident and expressed regret over the victims sustained by the U.S. and French forces.

Justice and Information Minister Roger Shaykhani also denounced the two operations conducted with explosives which were committed against the U.S. Marine position near the Cocodi and the French force in the Al-Jnah quarter. Minister Shaykhani asked the public prosecution organs concerned to expedite the investigations to unveil the implications of the two incidents and to acquaint him with the results as soon as possible.

Al-Wazzan Statement

NC231158 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1033 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Press conference held by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan on 23 October following security meeting at the government house — recorded]

[Text] In fact, I expedited the convening of this meeting, which was normally scheduled to convene tomorrow. However, in the

wake of the incident which shocked and pained us all this morning, we convened the meeting at the Internal Security Council. We summoned the civil defense director to give him the necessary directives and the powers to provide every required assistance in the rescue operation in this terrible catastrophe. Naturally, it was necessary for his excellency the foreign minister, who is concerned with the affairs of the two states whose forces were subjected to this enormous harm, to participate in the meeting. It was also necessary for his excellency the defense minister to participate in the meeting in view of the fact that his ministry is concerned with the affairs of this incident.

As I have said, this incident is very painful and it has profound implications. It should open the eyes of everybody to what is happening in this homeland, for every time we advance 1 meter toward good and salvation, we see waves of evil pushing us backward. It is as if Lebanon is destined to continue forever on the path of torment, pain, destruction, and devastation.

We heard the views of all the security officials and commanders concerned and we reached a series of measures which we deem useful. They will begin implementing these measures immediately. Perhaps we ought to appeal to the citizens to stand with us vigilantly and patiently because we are offering everything we can to rescue the homeland. I ask them to share our responsibility, each in his house through his observation or by drawing attention or by taking action, so that all of us — people and officials — may be able to rescue this homeland now that the hands tampering with it have increased and now that evil has gained ascendancy in a clear manner.

Following the conclusion of the security meeting, I held a separate meeting with their excellencies the two ministers to study the political situation and the effects of this serious incident on the general political situation and the salvation path we are traversing, which, as you can see, is full of thorns and difficulties. All of this will not prevent us from continuing with our persevering and sincere work for the sake of the Lebanese people and for rescuing the people of Lebanon.

We have been in constant consultations with his excellency the president on all the steps we have taken and can take. We will continue our consultations today until some of the stands which we might tak e crystallize further.

[Question by unidentified speaker] Mr Prime Minister, is there any intention to ask the Cabinet to meet?

[Al-Wazzan] Consultations are taking place in this regard. If we deem it necessary to convene a Cabinet meeting, an invitation will be made to convene it today. His excellency the foreign minister will proceed to the U.S. and French Embassies to offer condolences and to express sympathy with the two friendly states which have made sacrifices and continue to sacrifice for the sake of Lebanon, for supporting Lebanon, and for the salvation of Lebanon.

Personally, I offer Presidents Reagan and Mitterrand most sincre, warmest sympathy on this tragedy, hoping that these shared pains will be an impetus to us in our work for the salvation of Lebanon.

Walid Junblatt Denounces Blasts

NC231431 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] In Paris, Walid Junblatt has denounced the two tragic incidents to which the U.S. and French contingents have been subjected. He said the withdrawal of the French contingent may have bad consequences, but the U.S. presence is something else.

Cabinet Holds Session

NC231600 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1528 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Telephone dispatch by correspondent Joe Sa'dah from Presidential Palace — live]

[Text] The Cabinet is now holding an emergency session at the invitation of President Amin al-Jumayyil to discuss the circumstances of the two criminal attacks against the headquarters of the U.S. Marines command in Beirut and a center of one of the detachments of the French contingent with the Multinational Force in the Spinney's area.

The Cabinet invited Civil Defense Director Nazih Sham'un and Brigadier General 'Uthman 'Uthman, acting director general of the Internal Security Forces, to attend this session. Nazih Sham'un presented a detailed report on the rescue and aid operations which the various civil defense branches have carried out and are still carrying out to remove the dead and wounded. Brig Gen 'Uthman 'Uthman also provided some information in this regard. Nazih Sham'un briefly acquainted President al-Jumayyil with the situation in the field prior to the Cabinet's session.

The Cabinet will also hear the impressions of the ministers who visited the areas that were attacked. The Cabinet will be briefed on the information the ministers gathered after meeting with U.S. and French officers. The Cabinet will discuss the dimensions and background of these two attacks in light of the general political atmosphere and the available information.

Placing these two attacks within the general framework of the developments raises many questions on many issues. However, what can be said is that most reactions were a denunciation and condemnation of the two attacks and an emphasis of the determination to continue the mission for which the multinational soldiers have come — the defense of human values in which they and Lebanon believe.

Cabinet Statement Issued

NC232100 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Telephone dispatch by Joe Sa'dah from Presidential Palace — live]

[Text] The statement issued following the Cabinet session today says: After a series of preliminary meetings and contacts which his excellency the president and the prime minister held on

Sunday, 23 October 1983, including the meeitng of the Internal Security Council at the Interior Ministry, the Cabinet held an extraordinary session at 1700 to discuss the sitaution resulting from the crime of blowing up the two buildings which house the American and French forces with the Multinational Force on the airport road and Bi'r Hasan area. This led to a great tragedy which claimed many dead and wounded from among these forces.

The Army commander and the director general of the Internal Security Forces were invited to attend. Each of them presented a report on the information he received on the circumstances, implications, and the results of the two criminal incidents which were implemented simultaneously and in a way which appears to be the same.

In his capacity as the interior minister, the prime minister informed the Cabinet about what took place at the security meeting held at the Interior Ministry this morning and about the measures which it has been decided to adopt. Some of these measures require immediate implementation.

The Cabinet also heard a statement by the justice minister on the investigations initiated by the competent judicial quarters. His excellency the president and the prime minister expressed the feelings of pain and sorrow which gripped all the Lebanese as a result of this ugly crime, which, although it claimed as victims men from two friendly states, is actually a crime against the entire Multinational Force and the values which the UN Charter has established, including the peace which this force has pledged to help to achieve znd consolidate in Lebanon.

His excellency the president said that when conveying his deepest sympathies to the U.S. and French presidents, their governments, and their peoples and to the relatives of the victims, he stresses that their innocent blood which has irrigated the soil of Lebanon is further evidence of the precious sacrifices which the two friendly American and French peoples are offering to uphold justice in abidance with their firm mission of defending democracy, freedom, and justice in the world. This message has crystalized in Lebanon through their participation with other friendly states in dispatching forces of their sons to contribute to the establishment of security and peace.

His excellency emphasized that no matter how many are the obstacles and how precious are the sacrifices, they will not affect the march of the dialogue in which the regime believes and for which it has continuously called to initiate either through holding a meeting of the preparatory committee or through calling for a meeting of the Dialogue Committee in Geneva.

take 2 of 2--lebanon: cabinet meeting ends; statement issued

[Text]After the ministers debated the questions raised and the measures adopted, the Cabinet adjourned its session which will be resumed in light of the developments and of the contacts, which it has been decided to hold.

This is the statement issued by the Cabinet. After the Cabinet session, President Amin al-Jumayyil addressed a message in his name and on behalf of the Lebanese Government and people to the presidents, governments, and peoples of the United States and France condoling them on the death of the victims who fell as a result of the criminal attack against the U.S. Marines command headquarters in Lebanon and the center of one of the companies of the French contingent with the Multinational Force.

Following the Cabinet session Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri also made a statement in which he said: I was deeply pained by the perfidious and treacherous crime which was committed this morning against the American and French contingents with the Multinational Force in Lebanon. This crime has claimed dozens of dead and wounded. Lebanese and world public opinion have condemned and denounced this crime. What makes it more ugly is that it was committed against soldiers who came to us to contribute to the establishment of peace in a homeland which yearns for security and peace.

While bowing with reverence before the martyrs of this tragedy, I express my deepest sympathies to the American and French Governments and their defense ministers. I implore God Almighty to bestow His mercy on the victims. Their innocent blood, which irrigated the soil of Lebanon, is further evidence of the precious sacrifices made by the American and French peoples in defense of usurped rights and in abidance with their firm mission to defend justice and freedom in the world.

Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri accompanied by Foreign Minister Elie Salim visited the American and French Embassies this morning to convey condolences on the death of the victims and express feelings of pain over the incident and to denounce it.

This is all the information we have so far. We finally point out that the contacts are continuing at the presidential palace and through it to adopt the appropriate measures.

PSP Regrets 'Continued Bloodshed'

JN232005 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Damascus, 23 Oct (SANA) — A responsible source in the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] today stated the following: The PSP regrets the continued bloodshed in Lebanon and the increase of further dead and wounded in the destructive whirlpool that never spares anyone. In urging adherence to the 25 September agreement and the cease-fire, the party believes that there will no salvation for Lebanon except by qucikly moving to the stage of dialogue. This is because accord will preserve the lives of the innocent and restore peace to the homeland.

Al-Jumayyil Message to U.S.

NC232230 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil tonight addressed a message to U.S. President Ronald Reagan and to the American people in which he expressed Lebanon's feelings toward today's tragedy which was caused by the demolition of the headquarters of the U.S. Marine force operating within the Multinational Force near

the airport. The message was conveyed via U.S. television networks. President al-Jumayyil said in his message:

[Begin recording in English] In the name of the government and people of Lebanon, I wish to express my deep sorrow to President Reagan and to the American people for the tragedy which took place today in Beirut. To the families of the martyr Marines, I convey our deepest condolonces. These grieved families have the consolation that their brave sons died in a foreign land in defnse of freedom and democracy. They died to preserve freedom and democracy in Lebanon, yes, but also to defend these values for the United States and for freedom-loving people around the world.

For almost 10 years now the Lebanese have been the target of similarily motivated and executed acts. These acts have not, however, achieved their aim of destroying the Lebanese people's will to preserve their freedom and democratic way of life.

Today's attack was perpetrated against the United States and France. It is intended to deflect U.S. policy from its stated objectives and to weaken its resolve to defend the values upon which it was built.

I have received hundreds of messages from leaders and ordinary Lebanese citizens expressing their horror, their outrage, and their agony at this barbaric crime. The heart of these suffering ! ebanese [word indistinct] with sympathy and compassion to the American people who are helping them in their moment of gravest need. [end recording]

Al-Jumayyil Message to Mitterrand

NC232307 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil addressed the following message to French President Francois Mitterrand and to the French people via French television networks. A translation of President al-Jumayyil's message follows:

My people and I were shocked by the painful event and attack to which the brave sons of France were subjected today. To President Francois Mitterrand, the French Government, and the French nation, I convey my deepest and sincerest heartfelt sympathy. To the families of the heroes who fell, I convey the Lebanese people's condolences. The loss of the French families is the loss of every Lebanese family; their sons are dear to us as our martyrs and their sacrifice will not be wasted.

They fell in defense of the common values — freedom and democracy — in which all of us believe, and also in defense of a joint cultural heritage which we long experienced. France has been our partner in this [word indistinct] for years and we will never forget this.

In his message to President Mitterrand and the French people, President al-Jumayyil said: Every time Lebanon was about to ride out its crisis and hold the reigns of its power, the evil forces used to strike violently. These two attacks which were directed against France and the United States aim at frustrating their resolve and forcing them to withdraw from the peace mission by which they abide so that Lebanon would be free for the evil forces to carry out their destructive acts.

Continuing his message, President al-Jumayyil said Lebanon will neither fall nor kneel down so long as its friends, France and the United States, are on its side. All the Lebanese factions today asked me to convey to the French people their denunciation and condemnation of these barberic crimes.

After addressing the two messages, President al-Jumayyil said that he telephoned presidents Reagan and Mitterrand.

Asked about the repercussions of these two attacks and their effect on the dialogue, President al-Jumayyil said: We insist on holding the dialogue conference, and I hope that the conference will be held in Geneva next Monday. We will not allow the evil forces to destroy all the ongoing attempts to rebuild our cherished Lebanon.

Salim Cables Condolences

NC240948 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Text] Dr Elie Salim, minister of foreign and expatriates affairs, strongly condemned the attacks against the U.S. and French forces. He addressed separate cables this morning to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and to Claude Cheysson, French external relations minister, expressing his strong regret and denunciation of the attacks against the U.S. and French soldiers of the Multinational Force.

In his cables of condolences to his U.S. and French counterparts, Salim expresses the belief that this crime will not affect Lebanese relations with the United States and France, or their policy in respect of the Lebanese crisis. He notes that the Lebanese people are deeply distressed because the U.S. and French Forces came to Beirut on a peaceful mission. Salim says he shares the grief of the martyrs' families and conveys warmest condolences to them.

This morning Minister Salim received a telephone call at his office from Franco Ottieri, Italian ambassador in Beirut, who informed him that the Italian Government is following with concern the situation in Lebanon in the wake of these attacks. The ambassador affirmed to the foreign minister that his government is determined to continue its peaceful mission in Lebanon.

Junblatt Opposes French Withdrawal

LD231735 Paris Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] For his part, Walid Junblatt, the leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, said that an eventual French withdrawal from Lebanon would be disastrous. The Druze leader condemned the tragic outrages against the American and French units of the Multinational Force. For Walid Junblatt, the French contingent occupies strategic positions. This gives confidence to the Lebanese and Palestinian populations, as well as the refugees. According to him, a withdrawal would be disastrous.

Cheysson Questions Continuing Presence

LD231618 Paris Domestic Service in French 1600 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson, who is in Athens, condemned the outrages in Beirut but he also put a question mark on the future of the French contingent in Lebanon. France, he said, is not accustomed to giving in to pressure, but we must ask ourselves if the military role of our force there is really necessary.

For his part, Archbishop of Paris Monsignor Lustiger says that the shock to which French public opinion has been subjected must not lead to a cowardly abandonment of the peace objectives.

France's Hernu Arrives

NC231802 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1738 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Dear listeners: Darwish 'Ammar, the correspondent of the NATIONAL INFORMATION AGENCY at Beirut airport, informed us a short while ago that French Defense Minister Charles Hernu has arrived at Beirut airport. He was welcomed by Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri, Army Commander General Ibrahim Tannus, and (Daniel Bishop), the French charge d'affaires in Beirut.

The French minister inspected the guard of honor. He is expected to leave shortly by helicopter for the headquarters of the French command in As-Sanawbar Palace to meet with French officers and become acquainted with the circumstances of today's incident which led to the blowing up of their center in Bi'r Hasan.

Mauroy: French Contingent To Stay

NC231902 Paris AFP in English 1856 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Paris, Oct 23 (AFP) — The French contingent with the multinational peacekeeping force will remain in Lebanon, French Premier Pierre Mauroy said here today. He said that despite the double attack today in which over 120 French and U.S. soldiers were killed, the question of the continuance of the French contingent in lebanon "is a question which does not present itself at the current time."

Mr Mauroy said President Francois Mitterrand was in "permanent contact" with officials in Beirut and that Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson was returning here from Athens, where he was attending a Common Market meeting.

Mr Mitterrand will talk to U.S. President Ronald Reagan by telephone after the American National Security Council has finished meeting in Washington, Mr Mauroy said.

Answering a question from a journalist, Mr Mauroy said the government had nothing to indicate who was responsible for the Beirut attacks.

Hernu-Khuri News Conference

NC232141 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2048 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] A short while ago, French Defense Minister Charles Hernu ended his inspection visit to the ruins of the building which was occupied by the French forces in Bi'r Hasan and which was destroyed this morning a a result of a big explosion. Minister Hernu was accompanied on his inspection visit by Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri, Army Commander General Ibrahim Tannus, Chief of Staff of the French Armed Forces General Lacaze, and a large number of senior Lebanese and French officers. Strict security measures were adopted during the visit. After touring the ruins of the building and viewing the rescue work which is continuing, Minsiter Hernu spoke to newsmen. A translation of Minister Hernu's speech follows:

Here, 10 French soldiers died and 13 others were wounded. There are 50 soldiers missing. The president of the republic and the commander of the armed forces sent me together with General Lacaze and the ministry director, Mr (Bernard). We also have with us now the Lebanese defense minister.

As you know, this is not a place for a news conference. I have just been to see the place where the bodies of our American friends have been laid, and the scene was unbearable. There are 122 dead. I have also been to see the place where the French victims are assembled, and there are 9 dead. Their number has regrettably just risen to 10.

He described the attack against the French soldiers as impudent and cowardly. He said: I think that all our Lebanese friends understand our emotional state, and I hope you will understand my emotional state. I have just arrived here at the request of the president of the republic to inspect and see our officers and soldiers and to reassure them that all France and all the French people think of them in these moments.

Minister Hernu then gave the word to Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri saying: This is all I have to tell you. I believe that the Lebanese defense minister has something to tell you.

Minister Khuri spoke to the newsmen. He said: This was a cowardly attack directed against peace; however, it will absolutely not affect Lebanese-French ties and relations because they are special and strong relations.

Minister Khuri added: I am here next to you to share your feelings and to express to you again our gratitude for all that you have done for Lebanon, and to express our appreciation for your sacrifices and for the blood which has flown to irrigate our soil. The French blood is evidence confirming your determination to defend freedom, democracy, and peace.

At this point, a reporter asked Minister Hernu whether today's explosion will prompt the French Government to reconsider the question of the withdrawal of its forces from Lebanon. Minister Hernu answered: I am here in my capacity as the French defense minister. I do not believe that the time is appropriate to

raise such questions at this particular place. The issue should be raised at another place and in a different way. However, I believe that our presence here has a significance which you understand well.

Minister Hernu was then asked: Is there a state of grumbling in the ranks of the French soldiers? He answered: I have certainly not heard of any grumbling in the ranks of the French soldiers here in Beirut. I believe that your view is provocative, especially at this place.

The French minister was then asked about the precautions which the French Government will adopt. He himself asked: What precautions and on what level? He was told: On the security and political levels. Hernu answered: What precautions can we adopt on the security level when the operation is suicidal?

French President Arrives

NC240638 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0627 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Text] French President Francois Mitterrand arrived unexpectedly in Beirut this morning aboard a French military aircraft. The French president immediately proceeded from the airport to the As-Sanawbar Palace, the residence of the French ambassador in Beirut.

We note that French Defense Minister Charles Hernu has been in Beirut since yesterday in the wake of the attacks against the French and U.S. forces.

Mitterrand Inspects Blast Site

NC240849 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Text] At 0840 this morning, President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil arrived at the French forces headquarters in the As-Sanawbar Palace and immediately met with French President Francois Mitterrand, who had unexpectedly arrived in Beirut this morning. The French president was met at Beirut International Airport, where he arrived aboard a special military aircraft escorted by two military planes, by French Ambassador to Lebanon Fernand Wibeaux.

President Mitterrand visited the church in the grounds of the French headquarters. At 0930 a helicopter took Presidents al-Jumayyil and Mitterrand to the site of the explosion.

President Mitterrand is accompanied on his visit to Lebanon by his private adviser, (Francois de Gresouvre); his diplomatic adviser, (Mr Vadrain); and his military affairs adviser, (Sounier).

On his arrival at As-Sanawbar Palace at 0810, President Mitterrand met with French Defense Minister Charles Hernu, Chief of Staff Lacaze, General (Cannes), the chief of the French contingent, the embassy's charge d'affaires for military affairs, and French Ambassador Wibeaux. The French president made no statement.

Al-Jumayyil, Mitterrand Hold Talks

NC241046 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1020 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Telephone dispatch by Joe Sa'adah from Presidential Palace — live]

[Text] French President Francois Mitterrand arrived by helicopter at the Presidential Palace at 1210. He is accompanied by French Defense Minister Charles Hernu and the president's adviser. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan arrived at the Presidential Palace and entered the hall where the talks will be held.

The French president was met at the door by Hikmat 'Awwad, head of protocol at the Presidential Palace. The Army band played the French national anthem. After inspecting the guard of honor at the palace, President Mitterrand was welcomed at the entrance by President al-Jumayyil, who accompanied him to the Grand Hall in the palace where the first session of talks in now being held.

Talks Conclude

NC241123 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1112 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Text] Our correspondent at the Presidential Palace reported a short while ago that French President Francois Mitterrand left the palace about 5 minutes ago at the end of his talks with President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil. Part of these talks was attended by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad and Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan.

President Mitterrand left the Presidential Palace 5 minutes ago accompanied by President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil. Their destination is unknown. We reported earlier that President Mitterrand would meet with French officers in the As-Sanawbar Palace. Further information as available.

Mitterrand Visits *Clemenceau*

NC241028 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1005 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Text] On French President Francois Mitterrand's visit to Lebanon, the latest information from French sources indicates that President Mitterrand flew by helicopter to the French aircraft carrier *Clemenceau* off the Lebanese coast, where he inspected the aircraft carrier and met with French officers. President Mitterrand is expected to return to Beirut airport at any moment. The French sources also indicate that President Mitterrand wishes to lunch with French officers at the French contingent headquarters in As-Sanawbar Palace.

The remaining itinerary of the French president is unknown, because it has been amended. He was scheduled to hold a news conference, but he scrapped this. All that can be said now is that the French president will proceed from the aircraft carrier *Clemenceau* to Beirut airport and then to the French headquarters in As-Sanawbar Palace.

AL-ANWAR Comment on Attacks

NC240749 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 24 Oct 83

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper *Al-Anwar* regards the serious developments against the Multinational Force, particularly the U.S. and French Forces, no longer as mere incidents that can be solved by statements or declared stances without practical implementation. This is because the intensity of war is noticeably increasing, and the savage attacks continue. Naturally, the White House and the Elysee Palace have accurate statistics on the price which the United States and France each have paid in Lebanon's war, be it the assassination of ambassadors, blowing up of embassies, or the attacks against the UN Emergency Forces in the south — particularly the French contingent — or the shelling operations, and finally the alarming explosions that took place yesterday at the Marines and the French paratroops headquarters.

The paper adds: Although the Lebanese regret any incident to which the international forces are exposed — just as they regret any incident to which the Lebanese are exposed such as shelling, destruction, and displacement — they share the views of many observers that these forces should either take matters firmly in hand and confront and destroy the wave of terrorism because it is an endless series, or pack up and leave.

Geneva Conference Scheduled for 31 Oct

JN221743 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Excerpts] The Lebanese National Dialogue Conference will be held in Geneva at the end of this month. The aforementioned date was not officially announced in Beirut, but news agencies have learned this from a government source. This source stressed that the date was approved today during a meeting that Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil held with his senior advisers.

We have just received confirmation from Beirut that the conference will be held on the 31st of this month at the Intercontinental Hotel in Geneva. The conference will begin with a speech by President Amin al-Jumayyil. On the next day, the 1st of next month, the conference work will begin.

VOL: Druze Officers Differ Over Fighting Army

NC220845 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 22 Oct 83

non, an acute dispute has developed among the Druze officers in developed into a clash among these officers.

stances toward the Lebanese Army. Whereas the Junblatt officers are spearheading a campaign demanding that the Lebanese Army be violently checked and that troops be instructed to proceed to the contact lines on the mountain axes, the opposing officers counter by arguing that reporting to the barracks is adequate and that they should all adhere to the agreement previously concluded in the presence of Walid Junblatt. The agreement stipulates that the [former Army] officers will not fight on the mountain within the Army ranks, and that they will not raise arms against the Army because it is their own Army in the first place.

When the dispute intensified, Major General Nadim al-Hakim was asked to intervene. However, he declined to intervene and stayed at home.

It is worth noting that some 55 Druze officers, out of 126 officers, have joined the Hammanah barracks. It is also noted that some of these officers have been harrassed and interrogated by Anwar al-Fatayiri and Hisham Nasr ad-Din about the state of affairs prevailing within the military establishment.

In another development, it has been learned that 75 percent of the aid that is received by the Druze community is seized by a ring that is headed by Junblatt party leaders, overseen by Anwar al-Fatayiri, Dawud Hamid, 'Adil Taqiy ad-Din, 'Isam as-Sayigh, Sharif Fayyad, and Tawfiq Barakat. These people stockpile this aid in specific depots, sell it for high prices on the market, and share the profits of the sale. The remainder of the aid is seized by the Junblatt party group, while the Yazbik clan evacuees are deprived of any share of this aid. Whenever a Yazbik clan member inquires about aid, he is told: You have nothing to do with us, refer to the state.

TISHRIN Says Beirut Operations Part of Resistance
JN241028 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0850 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Text] Damascus, 24 Oct (SANA) — *Tishrin* says that the U.S. Marines and the Multinational Forces are waging a real war against the Lebanese national forces through their complete bias toward the regime which is ruling in Lebanon instead of working to appease the situation by assuming a neutral role.

In its editorial today the paper says: The two operations carried out by the Lebanese national resistance forces must be viewed within this context as being perpetrated within the framework of confronting the forces of occupation, those who assist them and work to prolong their presence. These operations are also part of the war which has been raging in Lebanon since the war of the southern suburb of Beirut and the Ash-Shuf and mountain war, especially since the U.S. Marines had effectively participated in them.

The paper adds: Some may say that the cease-fire decision has ended the war but they have forgotten the daily cease-fire violations carried out by the Phalangist army and militias and the forces of invasion with the explicit encouragement of the U.S. Administration. This means that the war continues but with different methods.

The paper concludes that what draws attention here is Reagan's reaction. He called on the West to tighten its control over the Middle East. This confirms that everything that the U.S. Marines are doing in Lebanon and in the areas where U.S. forces are present is aimed at imposing U.S. hegemony over the entire region.

Ambassador in Washington Regrets Blasts
JN232222 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2030 GMT 23 Oct 83

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] In Washington, Rafiq al-Juwayzati, the Syrian ambassador to the United States, said that the two bloody operations against the American and French forces in Beirut do not serve Syria's objectives in Lebanon at all. The Syrian ambassador expressed his country's deep regret over the death of 120 U.S. Marines. He said: They are our brothers even if our opinions differed on their mission. To a question on whether the Syrian Government wants the departure of the Marines from Lebanon, the Syrian ambassador said: I would wish them to stay if that was intended for the protection of all the Lebanese and not a certain faction.

Damascus Media Reportage on Beirut Explosions

News Agencies Cited
JN231956 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] World news agencies and radios since early this morning have reported the two violent explosions that took place at the building of the U.S. Marines Command Headquarters at the Cocodi and in the building of the French contingent command headquarters in Mahlat Ar-Ramlah al-Bayda' in Beirut. The agencies' reports conflict on the number of dead and wounded, however, this is due to the fact that a final estimate has not been made and due to continue rescue operations which are still going on and the recovery of bodies from under the rubble.

Beirut radio today said that unconfirmed reports said that the number of the victims of the first explosion which took place at 0620 this morning at the building of the U.S. Marines Command headquarters amounted to 120 dead. The radio also quoted unidentified sources as saying that there was no hope of finding any survivors at the French forces' building which exploded 5 minutes after the first explosion. According to unconfirmed reports, there were about 100 French soldiers in that building.

U.S. contingent commander Colonel Geraghty affirmed that the explosion killed 70 and wounded 100 and that there was a large number of missing people. However, an AFP correspondent in Beirut said that the French forces eight-storey building had collapsed completely and that there was no hope of finding any survivors. The spokesman for the French contingent Colonel (de Lombeau) said that the explosion was a result of boobytrapped car that crashed into the building. U.S. Major Robert Jordan, the spokesman for the U.S. Marines, also announced of a suicidal operation. He said that a truck laden with explosives crashed into the building exploding at the entry gate causing the four-storey building to collapse. Jordan added: I have not seen such a scene since the Vietnam war.

The Phalangist radio said that new information about the explosion indicates that the explosion at the U.S. building was caused by the explosion of an ammunition depot in the building which was previously occupied by the Lebanese Civil Aviation Administration. Beirut radio also said that the explosion at the Marines building resulted from the explosion of a Marine ammunition depot.

In another development, a U.S. official at the operations room in White House today said that his information indicates that the cause of the explosion at the U.S. Marines Command was a truck laden with explosives which crashed the command gate barracades and exploded in the building's courtyard. In an exclusive statement to an AP correspondent, the same official said that the same thing happened to the French contingent commands when a boobytrapped truck crashed into the building.

On the level of preliminary reactions, the Phalangist radio said that the U.S. Marines, the French forces, and the [Lebanese] Army cordoned off and besieged the sites of the two explosions and prevented everyone from approaching them. The U.S. Marines were also placed on maximum full alert and the U.S. naval vessels approached the Lebanese shores. A Lebanese airlines source indicated that Beirut International Airport was closed to traffic for almost 2 hours.

On the same level, White House officials said that President Reagan cut short his holiday and decided to return to Washington immediately. Peter Russel, White House assistant press secretary, said that Reagan this morning telephoned General

Paul Kelly, commander of the U.S. Navy and asked him to follow up the situation in Lebanon. Russel said that it was expected that Reagan would meet with his national security affairs advisers upon his return to the White House.

In Paris, French Defense Minister Charles Hernu expressed his condolences to U.S. Secretary of Defense Weinberger. The French minister is in constant contact with Lebanon and his prime minister to follow up the situation. It was learned from an informed source in Paris a short while ago that the French defense minister left Paris for Beirut. French presidential sources also said that President Mitterrand is watching the situation with intensive concern.

Additional Report

JN232030 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Beirut — Latest reports from the Lebanese capital say that the death toll in the U.S. Marines building explosion has so far reached 116. Those who were injured and the missing are more than 140. Beirut radio said a short while ago that the death toll in the French contingent building had reached 25 in addition to 12 injured. Final figures about the dead and injured are not yet available. Reports are still conflicting on the number of casualties.

John Stewart, spokesman of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut said today that the final figure is 86 dead and 125 injured. AP cites Stewart as saying that the number of missing U.S. soliders is not yet known and that the operation to recover the bodies of the dead soldiers from under the debris is continuing. No official figure was given about the French soldiers. AP says that 15 dead French soldiers and 3 others who were seriously injured have been recovered. The soldiers added that 85 other soldiers are still under the debris.

The Phalangist radio [Voice of Lebanon] cited the Marines' spokesman as saying that 200 U.S. Marines usually sleep in the building.

In Nicosia, [John Willy,] commander of the British base in southern Cyprus, said that the injured U.S. Marines had started arriving at the base's hospital for treatment. It is expected that 20 of the seriously injured Marines will arrive at the hospital.

Beirut radio reported that U.S. fighter planes arrived in Beirut today from the FRG to transfer U.S. casualties. AFP cites President Reagan as saying: The Western states must be determined more than ever before to control the Middle East, a vital and strategic area in the world. Reports from Washington say that Reagan held a meeting with the National Security Council to discuss the Beirut explosion.

Charles Hernu, French defense minister, arrived in Beirut this evening for the same purpose. Observers in Paris expect that the French Communist Party to ask Mitterrand to withdraw French forces from Lebanon.

120 Marines Said Dead

JN232121 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] A short while ago AFP quoted a spokesman for the U.S. Defense Department as saying that no less that 120 U.S. Marines were killed in the horrific explosion that took place at the Marines command headquarters in Beirut. The spokesman added that more than 100 Marines were wounded in the explosion and that 45 soldiers were transferred to Cyprus for treatment. AFP said that the number of the dead will probably rise as the rescue operations continue. The agency described the casualities among the U.S. Marines as a result of this horrific explosion at the Marines command headquarters in Beirut as the worst inflicted on the U.S. forces since the Vietnam war.

The casualities among the French forces as result of the explosion at their headquarters in Ar-Ramlat al-Bayda' today amounted, according to preliminary estimates, to 27 dead and scores wounded and missing.

In his first comment on these two horrific explosions, President Ronald Reagan urged the Western countries to be more determined than ever to control the Middle East which he described as vital and strategic. As for U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, he commented by saying that there was no possibility of reducing Washington's commitment in Beirut. Weinberger said that no decision had been made yet in light of this explosion. However, according to the U.S. secretary of defense Washington cannot leave Lebanon and leave the region open to what he termed terrorism.

The enemy radio correspondent in Washington this evening said that a number of congressmen from the Democratic Party called for the immediate return of the U.S. Marines to the United States. U.S. President Reagan earlier affirmed that there was no question of withdrawing the U.S. force from Lebanon now.

Television Reports on Explosions

JN232118 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Two simultaneous horrific explosions took place at the U.S. and French forces positions in Beirut. The latest official estimates put the number of U.S. dead at 120 while the French dead amount to 9.

More details of the two incidents in the following report: The rescue operations are continuing in search for the dead, wounded, and missing U.S. and French soldiers at the U.S. Marines command and French contingent command headquarters which were destroyed in Beirut this morning. News agencies quoted official informed security sources in Beirut as saying that the number of dead in the horrific explosion that destroyed the Marines command headquarters so far amounts to 120 while 100 others are still considered missing. Nine people died as a result of the explosion at the French contingent headquarters in Al-Janah area. Another report said the number of victims in the French contingent headquarters rose to 60 soldiers dead and 15 others wounded.

Reports are still conflicting on the causes of the two horrific explosions. Some informed sources in Beirut believe that the incident at the U.S. command headquarters was caused by the explosion of an ammunition depot in the building. These sources justified their explanation by saying that intermittent explosions were heard every now and then following the massive explosion. Beirut radio backed this information indicating that the depot belonged to the Marines.

At the same time, a U.S. Marines spokesman in Beirut said that a truck laden with 900 kg of explosives crashed into the Marines building. The explosion left a crater 9 meters deep and 13 meters wide. The spokesman added that a person climbed the gate of the Marines building and exploded the charge on the truck causing the entire building to collapse. The spokesman described this explosion as the worst catastrophe he has seen since the Vietnam war.

A spokesman for the French contingent said that the explosion at the French contingent command was caused int he same way, by a truck laden with explosives.

In another development, White House officials said that U.S. President Ronald Reagan cut short his stay in Augusta, Georgia and returned to Washington at dawn today because of the aforementioned incident. The White House assistant press secretary said that President Reagan telephoned General Paul Kelley, commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, this morning and asked him to follow up the situation in Lebanon. He added that the U.S. President's Adviser for National Security Affairs Robert McFarlane telephoned U.S. officials in Beirut asking them about the latest news of the explosion.

Reports from Paris said that French Defense Minister Charles Hernu left for Lebanon today after hearing about the horrific explosion to inspect French soldiers and learn of the damage caused by the explosion at their positions in Beirut.

A U.S. military spokesman said that while the recovery of the U.S. dead was underway, the U.S. Marines positions near Beirut International Airport came under automatic fire attack. The spokesman added that antitank shells were fired at U.S. position in the sciences faculty east of the airport. The spokesman did not reveal whether there were any casualities.

Further Report on Death Toll

JN240652 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Excerpt] Washington — The U.S. Department of Defense announced yesterday evening that no less than 135 U.S. Marines were killed in the explosion which destroyed the U.S. Marine headquarters in Beirut.

The Department of Defense added that no less than 59 U.S. Marines had been wounded and that this number may increase. Later Voice of America reported that the number of dead had risen to 140.

AFP reports that this is the biggest loss sustained by the U.S. Armed Forces sustain since the Vietnam War. It is worth mentioning that a U.S. officer, holding the rank of captain in the U.S. Marines in Beirut, had stated that 240 U.S. Marines were in the building which was destroyed by the explosion yesterday.

As for the casualties sustained by the French forces as a result of the explosion at their headquarters in Ar-Ramlat al-Bayda', they amount to 27 dead according to preliminary estimates. AFP reports that 14 were wounded and 53 are missing. One of the French soldiers stated that the bodies of 11 French soldiers were removed from under the debris of the building where a French unit was stationed.

Damascus Radio on Reagan's Threats Against Syria

JN211455 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] U.S. threats against Syria have not ceased for a long period of time. These threats reached their peak during the press conference which President Reagan recently held and in which he openly threatened to use force against Syria. He also stated fallacies about the Syrian stand in Lebanon — these fallacies being the product of his imagination.

In his statements, President Reagan said that Syria is hampering the dialogue in Lebanon and constitutes an obstacle to the Lebanese accord and dialogue. These fallacies are not new and the threat to use force is also not new because we have been accustomed to such fallacies and threats. Syria is no longer affected by these threats by which President Reagan expects Syria to change its stands or principles under political and military pressure. We in Syria have never been an obstacle in Lebanon and have never hampered the course of accord. This is a well known and established fact that will not be altered by U.S. statements, even if they are made by Reagan himself.

The cease-fire objective was to pave the way for the Lebanese dialogue and accord on the basis of equality, justice, and right among all factions. This matter was approved by all the concerned parties but it was later observed, through actual facts, that some of the parties which agreed to the cease-fire were not honest. They used the cease-fire as an opportunity to catch their breath and arrange for undermining the accord if the course of the dialogue did not meet their objectives.

In his capacity as the president of a superpower that shoulders a big responsibility for peace and security in the world, Reagan can do better by leaving the Lebanese arena to its owners because they are the only concerned party in the dialogue and accord. He can also do better by suspending military and political support for one party against another, instead of repeating threats to use military force against Syria. If President Reagan is really concerned about Lebanon's safety and the security of the Lebanese people, as he claims, he must therefore stop interfering in domestic Lebanese affairs. The best way to help Lebanon reach an accord are the withdrawal of the NATO forces from Lebanon and the unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli invasion forces

from all the Lebanese territories. Lebanon is historically and geographically an Arab country and we in Syria have exerted and are exerting every possible effort to preserve Lebanon's Arab identity, to support the just demands of the Lebanese nationalist forces, and to contribute effectively to bring about the success of a true and constructive dialogue that leads to satisfying results for all the factions. Thus, the rights of all the Lebanese sects and political parties will be safeguarded. If this Syrian stand is considered an obstacle, as viewed by Reagan, then we agree with him.

We reject any threat to use force against us. The boasting of the destructive capability of the ship *New Jersey* reflects the ethics of those who are claiming possession of high culture and civilization and respect of human rights. No matter how great the destructive power of the NATO forces becomes, it will fail to destroy the will of the human being who has faith in the justice of his cause and the correctness of his stands. Is this not the right time for the Americans and their allies to realize that the time of fear has gone, as struggler President Hafiz al-Asad has said?

Talas Attends Armed Forces Tactical Exercise

JN212046 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Text] Damascus — At the directive of President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, one of our combat formations carried out a live tactical exercise in cooperation with the various ground corps, Air Force, and helicopter gunships. General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief and defense minister; Major General 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff; and several General Command and formation officers, attended the practical implementation of the exercise.

At the beginning of the exercise, the director of the formations explained the tactical concept of the exercise, the phases of its implementation, and its training goals.

The formation began an offensive at the specified time after artillery and aircraft paved the way. It penetrated the various enemy engineering fences, inflicting large losses on the mock enemy forces. It then occupiied the enemy's support points and forced it to withdraw from its defensive positions. The formation continued the implementation of the combat mission entrusted to it deep inside the enemy defenses, developing its offensive into free movement and repulsing the enemy's counterattacks in cooperation with the various ground and air forces. This also included the landing of forces. It has thus accomplished the task entrusted to it with complete success.

At the end of the exercise, a token ground and air parade of the forces taking part in the exercise took place. The combat actions throughout the phases of the exercise were characterized by accuracy, decisiveness, and speed, in addition to the implementation of successful maneuvers. The mock targets were similar to actual fighting situations. After the the exercise, an analysis was made of the implementation phase. Talas, accompanied by Aslan, then inspected the units taking part in the exercise. He praised the administration and implementers of the exercise and asked all to continue their work in order to acquire further combat experiences so that we can score a final victory over all our nation's enemies.

WFTU 30th Session Opens in Damascus 21 Oct

JN211651 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Excerpt] Damascus — The 30th session of the WFTU opened in Damascus today under WFTU President Sandor Gaspar. Trade union delegates representing 35 countries are participating in the meetings.

President Addresses WFTU Delegation

JN212009 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Text] At 1800 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received WFTU President Sandor Gaspar and the WFTU Executive Bureau members. Comrade 'Izz ad-Din Nasir, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command and chairman of the Syrian General Federation of Trade Unions, attended the meeting.

Gaspar expressed the appreciation of the WFTU and the world working class for Syria's stands against imperialism and Zionism and for its pioneering role in the region. Gaspar said that the WFTU is well aware of Syria's important and influential role in this important part of the world. He stressed that the world labor movement supports Syria's steadfastness against the challenges and pressures exercised by the foreign imperialist and Zionist forces. He said that the world working class announces it full solidarity with Syria's brave stands and struggle against imperialism, Zionism, and warmongers.

The president thanked the WFTU and the world working class for their strong solidarity with Syria's confrontation of the plots of U.S. imperialism and Israel against the Arab nation, and all its countries, and against the interests of world peoples. The president added: The working class in our country is playing a basic role in the country's political, economic, and social life. It is also effectively participating in developing the country and assuming responsibility on all levels of leadership. Our workers have developed firmly established militant traditions and highly militant and organizational experiences. We consider these matters basic factors in our confrontation of imperialism and Zionism. These matters are, Therefore, among the most important factors of our optimism for the future.

The president added: Workers and peasants are the two pillars of the revolution in Syria. He then indicated the attempts of imperialism to dominate peoples and their destinies, disregarding these peoples' desire for freedom and peace. These attempts, he said, are also aimed at mastering these peoples' destiny and at moving the wheel of history in the direction they desire.

The president said that the imperialists are behaving with unprecedented arrogance and haughtiness, adding that the U.S. imperialists were not satisfied with the destruction and killing done by Israel, so they came with their fleets, gunboats, aircraft, and soldiers to control the region. However, he said this has not

worried us, or influenced our determination to defend ourselves. We have what prompts us to fight in defense of our destiny. Our history is full of lessons. We have been a target of invasion more than once, but the invasion, no matter how long it existed, eventually ended with the invaders' defeat and the Arab nation's victory.

The president added: The battle with imperialism and Zionism is difficult and long. We are determined to wage it with steady determination and long breath. We will depend on our workers and toiling masses as well as on the support of our Arab masses and our friends in the world and all the honorable and progressive people and advocates of just causes in the world. He continued: The strong friendly relations existing between us and the socialist countries, headed by the Soviet Union, plays a central role in our struggle against the imperialist and Zionist attempts.

Confronting the imperialists' attempt to suppress the movement of history requires work within the framework of the largest possible popular, progressive, national, and worldwide front which unites the peoples' forces and directs them against the common enemies.

The president hosted a dinner banquet in honor of the WFTU president and members and the participants in the WFTU Executive Bureau's 30th session.

Canadian Delegation Ends Visit; Departs 21 Oct

JN211300 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Text] Damascus —Allan MacEachen, Canadian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and his delegation left Damascus this morning after a 3-day visit during which he met with President Hafiz al-Asad and a number of officials. Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs, saw him off at Damascus International Airport.

Reaction to Bombing in Beirut Reported

Initial Reaction

TA230837 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] We have received an initial reaction from Jerusalem to the events in Beirut. Political sources in Jerusalem expressed shock and regret over the terrorist attack in Beirut. Those sources reiterated the call to the world to unite in order to uproot the cancer of terror originating in elements opposed to peace.

Shamir Statement

TA231614 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] In Jerusalem today Israel offered to help in the rescue operations involving the U.S. and French casualties in Beirut. At the weekly Cabinet session, Prime Minister Shamir said: We deeply share in the pain of the U.S. and French peoples. There is no doubt that this crime was perpetrated by elements who want to prevent a peaceful solution in Lebanon. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports:

[Begin recording] [Frankel] In addition to expressing regret, deploring the incident, and offering help in the humanitarian sphere, Jerusalem today continued to refrain from taking a position on the very fact of the presence of the U.S. Marines and the French paratroopers in Beirut.

Government sources today said that the stationing of U.S. Marines in Lebanon is a U.S. affair; we did not ask them to come and we will not ask them to either stay or leave.

The weekly Cabinet session opened with an announcement by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, as we heard from Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor:

[Meridor] Among other things, the prime minister said: Before the beginning of the Cabinet session, a report arrived about a serious disaster in Lebanon. A terrible explosion occurred at the headquarters of U.S. and French personnel. We are awaiting further reports. There is no doubt that this crime was perpetrated by those who want to prevent a peaceful solution in Lebanon and to widen and deepen the bloodshed. We deeply share in the pain of the U.S. and French peoples.

[Frankel] According to the Cabinet secretary, this morning through military channels Israel offered to help in the rescue of the casualties from Beirut. Regarding offers of help in other fields, Meridor refused to elaborate.

A government source this afternoon said that the Cabinet regards this event as further evidence of the sort of threat, means, values, and methods Israel is facing. Precisely today and irrespective of last night's events in Beirut, the Cabinet noted the firm approach the United States has been adopting recently toward the Syrians and their lackeys in Lebanon. In this context, special note was taken of President Reagan's remarks this week. A government source described the new U.S. position as a real turnaround.

At the political briefing presented by Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir, emphasis was put on the fact that contrary to previous fears, the issue of the annulment of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement was not on the agenda of the Lebanese national reconciliation conference. Speaking following the political briefing, Prime Minister Shamir reiterated the close cooperation between Jerusalem and Washington on the Lebanon issue.

Another issue we should mention from the Cabinet session is the composition of the ministerial committees. The Cabinet decided that the composition of most committees would remain unchanged. However, the dispute between the Liberals and the Tehiya over the chairmanship of the Ministerial Committee on Settlement Affairs was not settled. The composition of the committees on security and economic affairs was not decided. The issue of the composition of these committees always gave rise to disputes in the previous Cabinet and we are sure to hear a great deal about it. [end recording]

Further Shamir Remarks

TA231938 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1915 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Tel Aviv, 23 oct (ITIM) — "This morning the vicious arm of terrorism struck once again, but this time not at Israelis but at the units of the Multinational Force maintaining peace in Lebanon," Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said this evening at the ceremony where prizes were awarded to outstanding students for their dissertations on Ze'ev Jabotinsky and his work, held at the Tel Aviv Mann Auditorium.

Mr Shamir noted that the assassins and their bosses murdered scores of Americans and French, soldiers who fell for no crime at all. They did not come to Lebanon in order to conquer it or overcome it; they came on a mission of peace, to defend peace against its enemies, to safeguard the legitimate government of Lebanon and permit the Lebanese people to live as a free and independent nation." [quotation mark as received]

"The bloody terrorists who murdered these soldiers wished to kill the idea of peace in the Middle East as well as the notion of the Lebanese people's independence and the sovereignty of other nations in this region."

"We have come to know these murderers from our own experience," the prime minister said. "For years, and up until a year ago, they tried to harm our citizens but we drove them away. Our hearts go out to the friendly people of the United States, and we feel for France for the dozens of their sons who were killed this morning in cold blood. We sympathize with the families and share their and their governments' grief, and express our sentiments of solidarity over the disaster that has befallen them."

"History has taught us that such murderous and despicable terrorism cannot be confronted and overcome by showing a lack of will and running away, and only the momentum of war to annihilate it and wipe it out can help."

The prime minister said: "We are hoping the free world will not shrink from or hesitate in the face of these assassins' cruelty.

The people of Israel will join the entire world and align with it to defend peace and security in the Middle East."

Deputy Education Minister Miryam Glazer-Ta'asa congratulated the authors of the winning papers as did Mayor Shlomo Lahat.

The ceremony was attended by Knesset members and members of the Jewish Agency's executive.

Arens Offers Aid

TA231807 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Israel is prepared to put at the disposal of the United States and France any help required as a result of the terrorist attacks on the Multinational Force units in Beirut. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that this afternoon Defense Minister Moshe Arens talked on the telephone with his U.S. counterpart, Caspar Weinberger, and with Secretary of State George Shultz. In addition to offering help, Minister Arens again expressed his deep sorrow over the disaster that befell the Marines in Beirut. The defense minister also asked the Israeli ambassador to France to transmit a similar message to French Defense Minister Charles Hernu.

David Levi Remarks

TA240740 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Text] It was proved yesterday that the dangers lurking in Lebanon threaten not just Israelis, Deputy Prime Minister David Levi said yesterday.

[Begin recording] [Levi] This abominable, criminal act was perpetrated by those who turned Lebanon into occupied territory [end recording]

Now, following the tragic disaster, the deputy prime minister believes that the Americans and French are reflecting on those destructive forces and on the attitude adopted only a few months ago concerning the illusion that it is possible to reach a settlement with them by exerting pressure on Israel. I hope, David Levi said, that the free world has sobered up, that it knows that these elements are the enemies of the free and enlightened world and whose sole desire is to destroy, occupy, and shed innocent blood. On the path which Israel should follow in the future, David Levi said:

[Begin recording] In the coming days we will have to strengthen our ties and relations with our U.S. allies, as well as with the Europeans. These acts are carried out under a certain inspiration and their concept is general; they are carried out not only against the Jewish state, but also with regard to strategic, global considerations. One should keep one's eyes open regarding this concept and know the dangers inherent in it. [end recording]

Concern at Washington Embassy

TA240535 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Text] Israeli circles in Washington last night expressed concern about reports that the United States intends to transfer the U.S. Marines' Command from Beirut to one of the 6th Fleet ships off the Lebanese coast. These circles told our correspondent in Washington Razi Barqay that they hope this does not mean the beginning of a U.S. withdrawal. Our correspondent reports that contacts were held between the Israeli representative and the U.S. Administration last night, but the Americans did not request anything. Security sources last night denied remarks made earlier by Reserve Major General Avigdor Ben-Gal to the effect that Israel was sending equipment to Lebanon to rescue people caught under debris. The sources made it clear that so far Israel has not been asked to help, but it is prepared to do so. Our military correspondent notes that Israel possesses special equipment developed by the Engineering Corps. This includes rubber pillows filled with air capable of lifting very heavy concrete blocs, sensors which can detect the slightest noise, including heartbeats at great depths, sharp cutters for large-diameter steel cable and equipment to remove smoke and inject oxygen for people caught under debris. Such equipment was used after the Israeli administration's building in Tyre collapsed about a year ago.

Minister Burg Reaction

TA231040 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1028 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today will send condolence telegrams to the presidents of France and the United States. This was reported by our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel.

Minister Burg said in reaction: This is a human tragedy which once again shows what we have already learned ourselves. Calm in Lebanon should be ensured as soon as possible.

Herzog Cables Reagan, Mitterrand

TA231837 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] President Hayim Herzog has sent cables of condolence to U.S. President Ronald Reagan and French President Francois Mitterrand following the Beirut attack. Speaking this afternoon to diplomats from North and South America, the president referred to the tragedy:

[Begin Herzog recording] For years we've been ranged against the evil forces which wrought this dastardly act of infamy. Perhaps now the world can appreciate Israel's motivation, faced as it has been by the wicked forces which struck against the Americans and the French, and which have been the instigators of the tragedy of Lebanon and of the unrest in our area. [end recording]

Labor Party Reaction

TA231119 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] The Labor Party has expressed deep shock over the disaster in which dozens of U.S. and French soldiers fell in Beirut. The party said that the lethal reality in Lebanon requires an immediate settlement [hesder] that would permit soldiers from the area and from far away to go back home.

IDF Steps Up Alert

TA231907 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1858 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Excerpt] Southern Lebanon, 23 Oct (ITIM) — IDF units in Lebanon have stepped up their alert following the explosion in Beirut.

Instructions were issued to all IDF roadblocks along the Al-Awwali River and the other roadblocks scattered in Lebanon to increase their alertness and carry out thorough examinations of cars moving south. Guards around IDF command posts have also been increased for fear of further terrorist suicide missions.

Travel Restrictions on Lebanese

TA240541 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Text] The defense establishment anticipates that in the wake of the blasts in Beirut, the argument as to whether to close down the passes on the Al-Awwali River will intensify. Security sources told our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal that although the IDF is particular about checking the cars crossing the river, it is difficult to check 12,000 cars daily. The terrorists may introduce boobytrapped cars into IDF-controlled territory. According to these sources, it is preferable to cause inconvenience to the southern Lebanese residents than to enable the terrorists to bring in even a single boobytrapped car.

The police recommend that Lebanese residents not be allowed to enter Israel with their vehicles. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports the police propose that Lebanese residents who want to visit Israel be barred from entering with their cars for security reasons as well as for preventing drug smuggling. The Lebanese will have to park their cars at the border crossing point and use public transportation.

Radio Comment

TA231013 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a believes that the two terrorist acts in Beirut express a Syrian attempt to bring about an evacuation of the entire Multinational Force from Lebanon.

Our correspondent notes that the attacks took place a few days after President Reagan accused Syria of undermining the reconciliation and rehabilitation attempts in Lebanon. It can be assumed that the attack was carried out by extreme Shi'ites from the faction of Husayn (Musawi). This faction is cooperating with Iranian soldiers stationed in the Al-Biqa' under the aegis of the Syrian Army.

Morning Press Comment

TA240804 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0430 GMT 24 Oct 83

[From the review of morning press editorials]

[Text] *Ha'aretz* writes that the attacks perpetrated against the U.S. and French commands of the Multinational Force [MNF] at Beirut airport might have been planned a long time ago, but the fact that they were carried out 2 days after President Reagan announced that the U.S. Marines will continue to be stationed in West Beirut reinforces the belief that the attacks were intended to disrupt U.S. policy. The most realistic forecast is that the U.S. Marines will remain in Beirut as a symbol of U.S. stubbornness, but will exercise more caution and be more alert. There is no doubt, though, that they will continue to be exposed to terrorist acts, and it is to be feared that the process of erosion of Western influence in Lebanon may continue.

Davar writes that President Reagan should not have waited for yesterday's incident to learn from others' experience, specifically from Israel's bitter experience. Foreign powers had better not entangle themselves in Lebanon. Now, while he is still saying the opposite, it is incumbent on Mr Reagan to seek a proper way out of Lebanon, without the hundreds of U.S. Marine casualties having been in vain. In his distress, President Reagan will appeal to Syria, whose responsibility for the attacks, either directly or indirectly, is well-known even if lacking in solid evidence. It is a pity that blood was shed in vain; it is likewise a pity that in the wake of the massacre in Beirut the United States will be increasingly attracted to Syria, despite the emotional loathing for it and the feeling of a shared fate with Israel, the country which has been hurt in Lebanon.

Hatzofe says there is no doubt that the attacks on the U.S. and French commands in Beirut yesterday call for a redeployment of the MNF in Lebanon. At the same time, a political redeployment is necessary to promote peace in spite of its enemies. Israel, which is experienced in this sphere since it has suffered greatly in the campaign for peace, understands the feelings of those who are hurt. However, they should learn from Israel that despite everything, the campaign should be continued, and if the desired peace is achieved the victims will not have died in vain; by their death they will have brought peace to the free world.

The Jerusalem Post writes that one of the possibilities is that the Americans will not give in to the Syrians in Lebanon. In the long run, one cannot exclude the possibility of reaching some reconciliation with the Syrians and pulling the U.S. Marines out of Lebanon. The implementation of any of these possibilities will directly affect Israel. In any event, Israel must not change its policy of leaving the Ash-Shuf region and redeploying along the al-Awwali River with the clear intention of withdrawing to the international border. Israel's legitimate interest is to prevent

threats to its security from Lebanese territory, and this interest can be defended from the international border.

Uj Kelet says it is clear that in principle efforts should be made to evacuate all foreign forces from Lebanon, but not according to a Syrian dictate and not under conditions which are advantageous for Damascus. The countries concerned, the United States first and foremost, must adopt a firm stance to prove they will not submit to this new form of terrorism.

Nasha Strana writes that something peculiar has happened to the Israeli peace movement. It is silent, although the incidents which took place should have caused it to spring to its feet and demonstrate. There is no explanation for the silence of the peace movement, especially when the positioning of the Soviet missiles in Syria endangers the region at least to the same extent that positioning Soviet missiles in Europe endangers peace there.

Midday Press on Bombing

TA240930 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Review of midday press editorials]

[Text] *Yedi'ot Aharonot* says that, regrettably, the U.S. Marines and the French soldiers finally understand that the attacks in Beirut are intended to harm them. This is not an act by one group or another, but rather a sophisticated, well-organized operation which would not have come off unless Syria had backed it. The Syrians, in turn, would not have dared go so far if they had not had Soviet encouragement, or if they had not at least reported this to the Soviet Union. The Reagan administration undoubtedly knows this, even if it does not overtly admit as much.

Ma'ariv says that the U.S. Marines and the French soldiers served as a good target for all elements who want to compel the Multinational Force to withdraw. The Washington politicians who call for pulling the Marines out of Beirut do not understand that if this is done, the criminals will receive a prize for their despicable crime.

'Large Riot' Reported During IDF Search

TA231624 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1615 GMT 23 Oct 83

["IDF Spokesman's Announcement" — ITIM headline]

[Text] [No dateline as received] One IDF soldier was injured, three local inhabitants were killed, and a number of other local residents were also injured this afternoon during a large riot in the vicinity of As-Sarafand, south of the Az-Zahrani River.

The rioting began after the security forces conducted a search in one of the village homes and found large quantities and various types of war materiel. The inhabitants of the village began to congregate and riot as the unit members were arresting the tenants. The rioters waved knives, metal bars, and other heavy items and attacked the security forces. The soldiers fled while firing warning shots.

Then, as the rioting continued, the people set tires on fire along the Lebanese coastal road and assaulted an IDF patrol that arrived there. Additional forces reached the place and now quiet prevails there. The soldier who was wounded and the other local inhabitants that were hurt have been evacuated to the hospital.

U.S. Intelligence Report on Soviets Cited

TA230858 Tel Aviv Ha'aretz in Hebrew 23 Oct 83 pp 1,2

["Exclusive" report from Beirut by 'Oded Zaray]

[Excerpt] Beirut — About 120 Soviet experts are permanently present these days in the Al-Biqa' and Jabal Lubnan, including 'Alayh and Bhamdun, and are taking part in planning, fighting, and directing artillery toward the Lebanese Army posts and the areas where the Multinational Force is present. These details are included in a U.S. intelligence report passed to Lebanese elements here.

The report goes on to say that the number of Soviet and East European experts and military personnel currently present in Syria is 4,000. About 50 Soviet field officers took active part in the fighting which occurred in the mountain after the IDF withdrawal last month. In the Shtawrah headquarters they were active in planning, and in the secondary headquarters in Bhamdun and 'Alayh they were taking part in direct operational activities.

U.S. 'Striving' To Resume Autonomy Talks

TA211053 Tel Aviv Ma'ariv in Hebrew 21 Oct 83 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Ilan Kfir]

[Text] The U.S. Administration is initiating the revival of the peace process in the Middle East and, as a first step, it is planning to resume the autonomy talks.

It has been learned in Jerusalem, in the wake of the talks conducted by special U.S. Ambassador Richard Fairbanks and in other contacts with the administration, that the United States is now striving to stabilize the situation in Lebanon through the national reconciliation conference. If this goal is achieved, Washington intends to initiate moves to break the freeze in the negotiations over autonomy in the territories.

It has also been learned that the United States has been exerting pressure on Egypt to improve its relations with Israel at once and to return the Egyptian ambassador to Tel Aviv. These efforts have so far been to no avail.

The U.S. Administration has made it clear that it is not "cooking up" any new plan for the Middle East but merely wants to revive old initiatives related to the peace process according to the principles of the Camp David accords. Nevertheless, Israel knows that the United States is not satisfied with the situation of the inhabitants of the territories and by the faits accomplis Israel has been establishing in the field.

Compromise Over Jordanian Force Discussed
TA230709 Jerusalem The Jerusalem Post in English 23 Oct 83 P 1

[Report by Wolf Blitzer and Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpts] U.S. officials confirmed yesterday that units of the proposed Jordanian rapid deployment force have received extensive training — in secret — from the U.S. over the past 30 months.

The report came as the Reagan administration actively pursues a two-pronged policy of expanding strategic and political cooperation with Jordan.

Shultz briefed Prime Minister Menahem Begin about the concept last summer. The secretary later reviewed the matter with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Defence Minister Moshe Arens.

Some Israeli officials are suggesting that Israel might be prepared to make a deal with Washington — namely, that it would not unleash a major campaign against the plan if the U.S. were to strengthen strategic cooperation with Israel at the same time. Additionally, Israeli officials have made clear that they hope to win U.S. permission to use American foreign military sales credits in the Lavi jet fighter development programme.

Senior Israeli officials are clearly concerned over the American assistance to Jordan, but have decided to handle the matter through quiet diplomatic channels.

Ambassador Rosenne has been instructed to "try to reach an understanding," a well-placed source said last night.

"We don't want to turn this into an issue like the AWACS," the source said. He was referring to the 1981 failure to stop the U.S. from selling Advanced Warning and Command Systems aircraft to Saudi Arabia.

Arens Trip to U.S. in 'Near Future' Not Foreseen
TA230842 Tel Aviv Davar in Hebrew 23 Oct 83 p 3

[Report by military correspondent Tali Zelinger]

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens probably will not go to Washington in the near future.

The possibility of his visit was recently considered and its probability increased after the issue of the U.S.-Jordanian task force arose. Prof Arens was supposed to discuss the question of this U.S. initiative and the subject of the extent of U.S. aid to Israel and the nature of this aid with senior administration elements in Washington.

Last night it was learned that the visit, which was in its initial planning stages, probably will not take place. Those concerned in the U.S. administration, as well as in the Israeli Foreign Ministry, would like to limit all the discussions and the exchanges regarding the Jordanian deployment force to the lower echelons of the Israeli Embassy in Washington and the State Department.

The question of aid will be discussed anew at the Israeli Finance Ministry following the changes there. At the Defense Ministry it is believed that the trend to reduce military aid in return for increasing the grant portion — a trend opposed by the defense minister — will change.

Latest Mubarak-Ceausescu Proposals Rejected
TA222113 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] Political circles in Jerusalem said this evening that Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir explained clearly, while on a visit to Romania, that Israel objects to holding an international conference with the participation of the Soviet Union and the PLO and believes that the Camp David process must be pursued. The Jerusalem sources thus reacted to the joint communique issued by the presidents of Egypt and Romania, who said that it is necessary to convene an international conference to solve the Palestinian problem under UN aegis and with the participation of the PLO.

Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that Jerusalem expressed regret that Egypt had stopped the autonomy talks and is apparently not eager to resume them.

Finance Minister Pledges Budget Cuts
TA211050 Tel Aviv Ma'ariv in Hebrew 21 Oct 83 pp 1, 11

[Report by Ilan Kfir and David Lipkin]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir supports the main points of the economic plan being consolidated by Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad and has promised him his full backing in its implementation. One of the economic directions that the new finance minister will adopt was revealed last night when Kohen-Orgad said that "cuts will be effected through the length and breadth of the state budget; we should tighten our belts; the cuts will affect everything, including Judaea and Samaria."

Yig'al Kohen-Orgad made these remarks at a party held in his honor by the board of directors of ITAM, a company building industrial plants beyond the Green Line, on the occasion of his retirement as chairman of the company's board of directors upon his appointment as finance minister.

Deputy Finance Minister To Remain in Office
TA211821 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Text] Deputy Finance Minister Hayim Kaufman is to remain at his post. This was announced today by the new finance minister, Yig'al Kohen-Orgad, after a meeting with Kaufman. It was agreed that in the near future Kaufman would handle measures

to encourage investments and economic growth and would deal with a major economic conference to be held in Israel next year. The Voice of Israel's economic reporter notes that Kaufman's relations with the previous finance minister, Yoram Aridor, were strained, and towards the end of Aridor's incumbency Kaufman was kept out of policymaking.

DAVAR Criticizes Reagan Remarks on Mideast

TA231308 Tel Aviv Davar in Hebrew 23 Oct 83 p 7

[Commentary by Hagay Eshed: "Reagan Is Disappointing the Doves"]

[Text] There is something "wrong" with U.S. President Ronald Reagan. He does not read *The Washington Post* or *The New York Times*, or even the Israeli press. He is not up to date. He is not aware of the fact that U.S. policy toward Syria, Lebanon, and Israel has changed. He does not understand that there is no other choice but to appease and cajole the Syrians, forsake Lebanon, immediately revitalize the Reagan initiative, and apply pressure on Israel to negotiate with King Husayn according to conditions Husayn will be prepared and able to accept — with no mention whatsoever of the Camp David accords precisely in this context of Reagan's peace plan.

Even more bizarre is the fact that these U.S. policy objectives with which every newspaper reader in Israel and throughout the world is so well acquainted are not clear to President Reagan himself, despite his participation in the outstanding National Security Council debate the day before his appearance at a news conference, during which he was expected to say exactly the opposite of what he did finally say.

If President Reagan had known what he was saying, he would not have been obligated to justify, now of all times, Israel's launching of the war in Lebanon and its soundly based security interest in defending its borders against terrorist attacks. Reagan would not then have had to denounce the Syrians now, of all times, for constituting the obstacle to a settlement in Lebanon, and for having expansionist plans to include Lebanon and Jordan in "greater Syria," or link all of this with the presence of Soviet missiles and experts in Syria as part of the global Soviet threat.

On top of all this, the President again emphasized his almost personal commitment as President of the United States — and this he says with a grin — not to allow the Syrians to wear him out and remove the Marines from Beirut. Despite the sorry toll of human life, he pledges to continue to support President al-Jumayyil's efforts to reach a peaceful arrangement in Lebanon.

The U.S. President furthermore said that progress toward peace in the Middle East together with moderate Arab elements depends on the solution in Lebanon.

As if this was not enough, special Middle East envoy Richard Fairbanks then added to all of the above a renewed commitment to Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by promising that the United States would continue to support the Israeli-Lebanese agreement which, to recall, details the security arrangements in southern Lebanon to which Israel is entitled both before and after the IDF withdrawal from Lebanon.

Added up, all this forms a U.S. Middle East plan for the next few weeks and months. Yet it is almost diametrically opposed to the numerous reports that have recently funneled in, evidently as a result of leaks from lower echelons in the Reagan administration who wished to bring about a change in the President's policy along the lines advocated in their leaks, and yet failed. All the people who heralded the imminent change in U.S. Middle East policy should learn a lesson from their great failure both in terms of the fundamentally erroneous knowledge of the processes taking place in the top administration levels, as well as in misconstruing President Reagan's character and his attitude toward his Middle East policy. Moreover, the partial and distorted portrait of the outcome of the war in Lebanon as it has emerged from President Reagan's latest news conference should also be added to the above.

The war in Lebanon has turned the focus of the Israeli-Arab conflict from the topics that are most heavily disputed between Israel and the United States to those matters in which Israel and the United States differ only marginally.

The focal point of U.S. activity in the Middle East is not the solution to the problem of Judaea and Samaria and pressure on Israel to withdraw from there, or the problem of Jerusalem, where Israel is asked to change its present positions, or the problem of the Golan Heights, which is an obstacle to peace, or even another interim arrangement — this time between Israel and Syria. The war in Lebanon has obliterated the PLO as an independent military and political element in the Middle East. It has highlighted the Syrian-Soviet threat directed against Israel and the United States and underscored the need for those two countries to mount joint opposition to this threat, as allies on one side of the fence rather than on either side of it. The war in Lebanon has blunted the point of Saudi influence on Washington. Instead of a Saudi assault against Israel in a bid to make it change its views, Saudi Arabia was relegated to a position of apologizing and going on the defensive for not having succeeded in softening the Syrians and bringing King Husayn somewhat closer to the negotiating table. Ever since the Israeli-Egyptian peace agreement removed Israel from the political isolation to which it could be subject before in terms of its relations with the United States, along came the war in Lebanon, which pulled Israel out of the "U.S. isolation" it could have encountered after the completion of the withdrawal from the Sinai.

President Reagan's latest news conference should serve as a cold shower t all the people who are inclined to enter the damage and loss of human life into the business of weighing the balance of the cost versus the outcome of the Lebanon war, while on the other hand they remove from that balance the political and strategic considerations or the long-term objectives of Israel's foreign and security policy.

This balancing should also include a correction to the overall picture of the Israeli-Arab conflict and Israel's status within it; the nearly exclusive emphasis on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the fact that it is removed from its overall Arab context

misrepresent the true picture of the conflict. Thus Israel is converted from the David attacked by and defending himself against the Arab-Soviet Goliath into the cruel Goliath oppressing the Palestinian David. Contrary to the temporary, transient impression created at the outset of the war in Lebanon, now the true nature of the basic lines of the conflict is slowly emerging — just as Lebanon is torn and embattled, Israel, defending itself, is also a victim of the ongoing Arab-Soviet aggressiveness, the spearhead of which is currently Syria. It is in the regional and global strategic interest of the United States to stand up against it and help those assaulted by it.

This is what the U.S. President said at his most recent news conference, and this too should be added to the overall balance of the war in Lebanon.

ALGERIA

Bendjedid Has Talks With UAE President

PM201330 Algiers El Moudjahid in French 13 Oct 83 p 12

[APS report: "Algeria-United Arab Emirates"]

[Text] Algiers — The talks which took place between President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and FLN secretary general, and [UAE President] Zayid ibn Sultan Shaykh Al Nuhayyan, related to the different aspects of the situation in the Arab nation and developments in the situation in the Gulf and Middle East region, especially the Palestinian cause, according to a reliable source in the UAE delegation. In a statement made at the end of the official visit to Algeria by His Highness Zayid ibn Sultan Shaykh Al Nuhayyan, the same source added that at the beginning of the talks between the two presidents His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid welcomed His Highness Zayid ibn Sultan Shaykh Al Nuhayyan on his own account and on the Algieran people's behalf, and stated in particular:

"Your visit is extremely important for us and for our people. We are working to improve the Arab atmosphere and we in the sphere of the Arab Maghreb and you in the Near East sphere see the need to unite Arab ranks and transcend marginal difficulties because we are in the age of large entities in which there is no room for the weak. We are all responsible for building a strong Arab nation, and our regional problems do not prevent us from taking part, in a consistent way, in resolving Arab questions, primarily the Palestinian question and the Iraqi-Iranian conflict, and ending disagreement at Arab level.

"His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid advocated safeguarding and promoting Arab-African relations and explaining the Arab viewpoint to the African states," the same source stressed, stating that His Highness Zayid ibn Sultan thanked his brother His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid for the fraternal welcome given to his highness and the delegation which accompanied him. Addressing President Chadli Bendjedid, His Highness Zayid ibn Sultan said: "Your remarks on the Arab nation, and the adoption of this position by Algeria, shed light on and clarified all your positions in Algeria, Africa, and the Middle East."

"The Arab leaders are fully aware of all the efforts which you are making to end the disagreements and reconcile our brothers who are in conflict," His Highness Zayid ibn Sultan added. "We are heartbroken to see the Arab nation so torn and so divided," he continued, stressing that "this situation has brought only loss to the Arabs, without them resolving to aim for something better."

"I think," he added, "that it is our duty as brothers not to allow ourselves to despair. We must do the impossible to fulfill the Arab nation's hopes, especially since we have the means of so doing in all spheres," he stressed. The UAE president also said that "the Arab nation's influence lies in its cohesion and it will only keep its full dignity if it overcomes its differences and presents a united front. "It is to that end," he added, "that I went to Iraq and Syria, where I met with Presidents Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad. "I was greatly relieved by the degree of understanding which exists between the two leaders, and I have great hopes of your enlightened leadership, which will be able to strengthen the concept of Arab solidarity. We know that you are anxious to safeguard the Arab nation's interests and work for its happiness and prosperity," he concluded.

The same source said that the talks also related to ways and means of strengthening bilateral relations and cooperation in the best interests of the two countries and the two fraternal peoples.

Mali's Traore Stops Over in Algiers

PM201409 Algiers El Moudjahid in French 10 Oct 83 p 12

[APS report: "President Moussa Traore's Stopover in Algiers"]

[Text] Algiers — [Malian] President Moussa Traore made a stopover at Houari Boumedienne Airport yesterday afternoon on his way back to Bamako from Paris and was welcomed by Mr Mohamed Yala, member of the Politburo and minister of the interior, accompanied by Mr Hadj Ben Abdelkadr Azzout, member of the Central Committee and secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, Lieutenant Colonal Djenouhat, deputy commander of the Seventh Military Region, Lieutenant Colonel Dib, commander of the Republican Guard, and Mr Amor Benghezal, director of the Foreign Ministry African Department. The Malian ambassador in Algiers and the embassy staff were also there to welcome him. After reviewing a detachment of the Republican Guard which formed the guard of honor, the Malian head of state rested for a few minutes in the airport's VIP lounge before boarding the plane again to return to his country.

In a statement made to APS during the stopover, President Moussa Traore discussed current important African questions, namely the Namibian question, the Chadian question, and the saharan question.

"The Namibian question," the Malian head of state said, "is in the contact group's hands. That group is paralyzed and we think it is going to be revived so that before the beginning of next year it will be possible to see things clearly and at the same time find a solution to the problems being experienced by Angola and the frontline countries." With regard to the West Sahara, President Moussa Traore recalled that the last Addis Ababa meeting "was a failure owing to the fact that Morocco refused to have a dialogue with the participants in that conference." "The point is to establish how far we should go," the Malian president said, because the OAU is likely to be hindered. Those who are called the Polisario's friends have made every effort to ensure that the Polisario accepts the OAU's proposals each time, and the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic even agreed to withdraw from the organization when it had been legitimately accepted into it. The question is: Will Africa shoulder its responsibilities in the face of this new situation which has just been created?"

President Moussa Traore asked: "Will Morocco revise its position on the holding of a referendum, if not what would become of the organization from next December?" "The solution is in the hands of the Africans themselves in view of the deterioration in the situation," the Malian head of state said, and, with regard

to Chad, he said that "we are moving toward a solution, since the involved and interested parties agree on dialogue, a cease-fire, and the withdrawal of the foreign troops. Since that is the wish of those who are fighting we can only welcome that initiative and step up our aid to bring about a solution in Chad."

Questioned on the development of Algerian-Malian cooperation, President Moussa Traore recalled his recent visit to Algeria and the talks he had with President Chadli Bendjedid on that occasion. During that meeting, he said, we decided to step up that cooperation at the same time, [as published] the fraternal Algerian interior minister had a meeting with his Malian counterpart to put into practice all that was decided last month.

"Cooperation between Algiera and Mali is excellent," President Moussa Traore specified and, in conclusion, he thanked President Chadli Bendjedid and the Algerian officials and people for all the hospitality and friendship shown to him.

Lebanese Progressive Socialist Official Arrives

LD231029 Algiers APS in Arabic 0900 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Excerpt] Algiers — Member of the Political Bureau and official in charge of international relations in the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party Riyad Ra'ad has arrived in Algiers from Beirut. He will be conducting talks with FLN party officials about the situation in Lebanon.

LIBYA

Beirut Explosions 'Direct Answer' to U.S Policy

LD231606 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Early this morning the headquarters of the U.S. military leadership in Beirut was destroyed by two cars full of explosives. The eight-story headquarters was completely destroyed and the windows of the neighboring buildings were smashed. The building contained at least 300 persons when the explosion took place. Helicopters from the aircraft carrier *Eisenhower* hurried to the site of the explosion to participate in the rescue oerations. Since the beginning of the rescue operations, the number of the corpses to be found continues to increase. More than 120 U.S. corpses have been found and more than 20 French corpses.

This incident is the second of its kind against the illegal military presence of the U.S. forces in Lebanon which raided the positions of the Islamic and patriotic forces in Lebanon a few days ago using land, naval, and air arms. A few months ago, the U.S. Embassy was exposed to a similar incident in Beirut. It seems that the U.S. estimates of the situation in Lebanon ignore several factors and criteria which contribute to the Lebanese crisis, especially the feelings and dignity of the Lebanese in their rejection of all forms of U.S., Zionist, and European foreign intervention — especially if this intervention is in favor of a side which is not loyal to the Arab Lebanon.

One year ago, the Lebanese patriotic forces in south Lebanon implemented a similar daring operation against the Zionist military leadership in the city of Tyre. In this operation more than 150 Zionist soldiers were killed. Zionist propaganda tried to claim that this incident was due to an explosion in the gas pipes in order to belittle the operation and its executors. But the operations which followed this operation affirmed the reality of the heroic operations which are being implemented by the Lebanese against the U.S. and Zionist military occupation. Today's operation will not be the last of these.

The U.S. forces on the Lebanese territories and opposite the shores of Lebanon lost four soldiers in addition to other wounded after they participated in the fighting on the side of the phalangist government army a few weeks ago against the Muslims and the patriotic and progressive Lebanese forces.

The daring operation this morning against the U.S. military leadership comes as a direct answer by the Lebanese patriotic and progressive forces to the big-stick policy which the United States is trying to follow in Lebanon. The operation was described by the spokesman of the U.S. Marines in Lebanon as a massacre whose equal he has never seen even in the Vietnam war which was committed by the United States against the Vietnamese people.

Arab Leaders Reply to Al-Qadhdhafi Message

LD211544 Tripoli JANA in English 0939 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Text] Tripoli, Muharram 15, oct 21 JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The leader of the revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, received a message from amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah in a reply to his message to all the Arab kings and leaders on the British military exercises in Egypt which are starting from the 28th October. Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad mentioned that by being adherent to our Arabism we will be able to confront whoever intends to inflict evil on us. We will also be capable of translating our words into a manner of life built on right. The president of the Yemen Arab Republic, [as received] 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, received the message from the leader of the revolution on the same issue, who confirmed on its contents.

The amir of State of Bahrain, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman received the message from the leader of the revolution and agreed to all the points included in the message. Shaykh 'Isa has appreciated the leader of the revolution's farsightedness and national awareness with regard to the Arab nation confirming that his approach is the right one on the road of mutual Arab cooperation.

Palestinians Abandon 'Arafat for Sa'id Musa

LD212218 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1930 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Oct (JANA) — The Palestinian masses this morning marched on all the offices of the Fatah Organization in the Jamahiriyah. The members of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement — Fatah — who are on the soil of the Jamahiriyyah announced that they have joined the new revolutionary movement in Fatah under the leadership of Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] and that they have overthrown the leadership of Yasir 'Arafat and his defeatist gang. As of today these offices come under the control of the new revolutionary move-

ment in Fatah. The members of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement — Fatah — who took over the offices of the Fatah organization in the Jamahiriyah issued a statement in which they declared that they are an effective part of the ranks of the new revolutionary movement in Fatah and they have given a pledge to all strugglers of the sons of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation to continue the struggle until the liberation of all Palestinian territory whatever the cost and sacrifices.

The statement affirmed that the deviating leadership of Yasir 'Arafat has not been loyal to the basic principles and aims of our people which are entrusted to it and which are represented in their right to the liberation of the entire territory of their occupied homeland by armed struggle as our means to accomplish this. The statement explained that the Fatah cadres and their broad bases tried to dissuade the deviationist leadership from its wrong practices and they resorted to all means inside the Palestinian organization to persuade the leadership from continuing in its error. The leadership however, insisted on proceeding in the deviationist path, which imposed on us the task of defining the means of standing up to it. The statement affirmed that the new revolutionary movement in Fatah is the outcry of all the strugglers among the sons of our people and it is a decisive answer to the practices of 'Arafat and his clique and a true expression of what goes on inside the conscience of every upright struggler.

The statement of the Palestinian revolutionary force declared that the deviationist leadership of Yasir 'Arafat has squandered the sacrifices of our people and followed the policy of the late As-Sadat. It believes that 99 percent of the conditions of a solution were in the Americans' favor and, inasmuch as the traitor As-Sadat conceded the sacrifices of the Arab people in Egypt to the enemy and accorded a direct recognition of the Zionist enemy, the 'Arafat deviationist leadership began to concede the sacrifices of our people by according direct recognition of the Zionist enemy and it abandoned the proper course of the Palestinian revolution, resorting to stifling every bold voice raised against the deviation and using all means, including the physical liquidation of the fighters.

The statement noted that the deviationist leadership of 'Arafat worked to entrench its stooges and tools in every arena and position of action. Among these stooges was its representative in the Jamahiriyah who together with his gang erected a barrier between them and the sons of our people. Their behavior contradicted the course of the revolutionary strugglers. They traded in the funds of the revolution at the expense of the martyrs until their wealth became great, their accounts were fully repleted, their property interests became numerous in the Western capitals, and the full-time preoccupation of these decadant stooges and their daily conversation centered on how to develop these private incomes instead of thinking about the problems of our cause and how to promote our armed struggle.

The statement explained that at a time when our people inside and outside occupied Palestine are paying the price in blood, this decadent clique is turning into brokers and merchants. At a time when the strugglers are striving to develop their revolutionary work, the decadent cliques are turning into competitors against one another in the commercial fields and racing one another to the doors of commercial companies to conclude illicit deals. The statement affirmed that the sons of Fatah and the Palestinian masses in the Jamahiriyah arena declare that they are an effective part of the ranks of the uprising, andpledge all the strugglers of the sons of our people and nation to continue the struggle until the liberation of the entire Palestinian territory whatever the cost and sacrifices.

The sons of Fatah concluded their statement by underlining that in this uprising they will bring to book every deviationist, wherever he may be, and that they will not let anyone who has committed an offense against this revolution, politically, militarily, financially, or in his behavior slip away from the hand of firm and just revolutionary justice.

Demonstration, Aide Memoire Against Italy

NC221240[Editorial Report]Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic at 1100 GMT on 22 October carries a relay, which is intercepted in progress, on a demonstration by a "force of Libyan horsemen" who are enroute to the Italian Embassy in Tripoli. The demonstration is described by the announcer who says demonstrators are claiming their right to compensation for the harm and the losses that were inflicted on Libya during the days of "injustice" and during the days of the Italian invasion. The sound of what seems to be gun shots can be heard in the background, however the announcer does not acknowledge this. At 1122 GMT the announcer says the demonstrators are slowly approaching the Italian Embassy and they have reached a square in which the Italians hanged Libyan patriots.

The announcer continues by saying that it is incumbent upon the people to proclaim "to the struggle" to liberate every inch of their territory. The demonstrators chant "The people demand compensation." The announcer says that compensation will be obtained "by lawful means and even by force because it is not impossible for the Libyan people to use force in their demands for compensation." He then adds: "This is the last opportunity for the Italian Government to consider the matter of compensation to the Libyan Arab people."

At 1146 GMT the announcer says "the Italian imperialists left nothing for this people. They left nothing but destruction and leftovers of war that we discover every day and that are scattered in our land." Meanwhile, the demonstrators continue to chant "The people demand compensation." At 1155 GMT the announcer says that "this force of Libyan horsemen has come from all over the country and has formed a striking force." He says there are well over 4,000 horsemen on the 'Umar al-Mukhtar road. Then an unidentified representative of the horsemen begins reading the following aide memoire to be given to the Italian ambassador to the Jamahiriyah:

"To the Embassy of the Republic of Italy in the Jamahiriyah: We, the Libyan Arab people, who have been victimized by the invasion of the Italian imperialism and by a sinful fascist occupation, have also been subjected to the ugliest means of destruction of life and property, which have all led to the massacring and destitution of our people, to the destruction and burning of our property, and to losses of life and to the economic situation which we are suffering from to this day. The

fascist Italian colonization of our country led to the embroilment of the Libyan Arab people in a war with which they had absolutely nothing to do. The Libyan people's territory was used as a battlefield for grinding battles in which mines were planted — and Italy is responsible for the planting of these mines and for the failure to remove them after the war and even to this time. The historical evidence and documents, legal precedences, and the UN General Assembly resolutions have all endorsed and backed the Libyan Arab people's right to compensation for the losses of life and property that they sustained because of the presence of the fascist and despicable Italian imperialism. Therefore, Italy is now required to atone for an historical guilt, that is, for the most ferocious and notorious colonialism from which our people have suffered, so that it will become possible to open a new page in the relations between the Libyan Arab people and the Italian people. Such an atonement can only be realized through a just compensation.

"The Libyan Arab people stand fully prepared to resolve this issue in a friendly way to obtain their legitimate rights — an issue that has stemmed from a sinful colonialism that burdened them for a period of about 35 years. The Libyan Arab people hope that this offer will elicit the rapid acceptance and response of the Italian authorities. Otherwise, the Libyan Arab people will find themselves compelled to achieve their rights through international forums and to file compensation suits through all the other means. This aide memoire is forwarded by the horsemen of the Jamahiriyah and by the Libyan Arab people." The announcer then reminds Italy that "this is the last opportunity" for the Italian Government "to seriously reconsider" the payment of compensation to Libya. The relay ends at 1225 GMT.

Joint Arab-USSR Committee Agenda Initialled

LD222007 Tripoli JANA in English 1826 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] Tripoli, Muharram 16, October 22, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The meetings of the joint Libyan Arab-Russian committee's ninth session ended in Tripoli at noon today. The committee also initialled the agenda of subcommittees studying methods of developing bilateral cooperation in all fields. The agenda was initialled by the General People's Committee Secretary of Electricity Mr Jumaa Alarbash and for the Russian side by the deputy chairman of the Soviet State Committee for External Economic Relations.

MOROCCO

UAE Minister Arrives, Makes Statement at Airport

LD212249 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Text] UAE Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah arrived in Morocco this evening. He made the following statement in the VIP lounge of Sale airport:

[Begin recording] We are carrying another message from His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan, head of state of the UAE, to his Brother His Majesty King Hassan II concerning the mediation of His Highness Shaykh Zayid between the two fraternal countries, the Kingdom of Morocco and Algeria. [end recording] Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah was met by Secretary of State at the Foreign Ministry Abdelhaq Tazi and the UAE charge d'affaires in Rabat.

SUDAN

Reportage on Visit of Romania's Ceausescu

Arrives in Khartoum

AU221732 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1722 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] Khartoum AGERPRES 22/10/1983 — President Nicolae Ceausescu and Elena Ceausescu started on Saturday an official visit of friendship to Sudan. At the international airport of Khartoum the distinguished Romanian guests were welcomed by President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri and Mme Numayri. President Nicolae Ceausescu is accompanied on this visit by Iosif Banc, secretary of the CC of the RCP, Gheorghe Oprea, member of the Executive Political Committee of the CC of the RCP, first deputy prime minister, Stefan Andrei, alternate member of the Executive Political Committee of the CC of the RCP, minister of foreign affairs, and by other officials. After the arrival ceremony, President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri introduced the officials at the airport. The motorcade headed for the People's Palace of Khartoum. The residents of the Sudanese capital city welcomed the distinguished Romanian guests.

Talks With Numayri

JN231132 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 23 Oct (SUNA) — Presidents Ja'far Muhammad Numayri and Nicolae Ceausescu held a closed session of talks here last night. The 1-hour talks dealt with the international situation and various issues of mutual concern to both countries, especially events in the Middle East. The Romanian president reiterated Romania's support for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. The talks also covered foreign intervention in other countries' affairs. In this respect, the two presidents affirmed every nation's right to live in peace within their recognized boundaries. The discussion during this meeting also touched on the growing cooperation between the two friendly countries in all fields. President Numayri and his wife held a dinner banquet last night in honor of the Romanian president, his wife, and the accompanying delegation.

Numayri on Official Talks

JN231648 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Oct (SUNA) — In a speech at the beginning of the official talks between the Romanian and Sudanese sides, President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri today greeted Sudan's great guest Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and the Romanian people. He expressed his deep pleasure and complete satisfaction with the frequent meetings between the two countries which struggle resolutely for the sake of goodness, progress,

justice, and peace for them and for the whole world. President Numayri pointed to the meeting which was held between him and President Ceausescu in Romania. He stressed that the days which he had spent in Romania are unforgettable. He added that he was pleased with the hospitality and cordiality accorded to him by President Ceausescu and the great Romanian people. He said that that visit had enabled him to acquaint himself with the great Romanian people under the wise leadership of President Ceausescu.

President Numayri said that the future of the relations between the two countries is very reassuring due to the fact that since the recent meeting, the two sides have achieved a lot in the fields of economic and technical cooperation and practical achievements. This fact, he said would give a push to bilateral relations.

President Numayri said that despite all these achievements, the two sides believe that the cooperation between them has wider aspects which urge them to exert more efforts so as to translate bilateral cooperation into tangible reality which would be represented by more success. President Numayri praised the achievements of the the two countries' representatives in the meetings of the joint ministerial committee. He expressed confidence that the conclusions which they have reached are significant regarding the promotion of cooperation between the two countries. He also expressed apprepciation of the joint ministerial committee's services in the interest of the developed relations between the two countries. President Numayri expressed Sudan's desire for Romania's participation in the development projects in Sudan in the fields of agriculture, light industry, and spare parts, in addition to the assistance in the field of military equipment, diesel pumps, light vehicles, and helicopters.

President Numayri said that the talks will deal with the possibility of benefitting from Romania in the field of petrol, dams, and hydroelectric power. The talks will also deal with the establishment of an Egyptian-Sudanese-Romanian complex to provide food. President Numayri declared that since the meeting which was held in Bucharest in last August, Sudan has been exerting efforts in order to achieve more progress in the field of social economic development and the establishment of a modern state. He said that very important achievements have been realized in this field despite the difficult challenges which are represented by the effect of the world economic situation on Sudan. President Numayri added that Sudan has made historical strides in handing over authority to the masses, expanding democracy, completing the organs of the regional government, and democracy, completing the organs of the regional government, and making decentralization a living reality. He said that the participation of the masses in making and implementing the decision has become an indisputable reality.

President Numayri said that despite the current achievements, Sudan has a long way to go to realize the national goals which have been drawn up in a comprehensive political program. The president expressed the revolution's determination to exert its utmost to realize these goals.

The president referred to the difficulties Sudan is facing in the economic field particularly when foreign banks demand payment of the interest which has been mounting day after day. The president referred to the Islamic economic system which Sudan is applying and which does not rely on huge interests. He spoke about the changes in the scientific field which have been occurring since the Bucharest meeting. He expressed his regret that the basic challenges posed by the threat of a nuclear war continue to persist in the world. He said the arms race is still rife, which threatens the world with a nuclear war. The president said that the problems of the Palestinian and Namibian peoples are still unsolved. The South African racist government and the Zionist racist regime continue to practice their inhuman policies.

In his speech at the beginning of the official Romanian-Sudanese talks, President Numayri pointed out that the policies of hegemony and intervention in the domestic affairs of independent states are the habit of some forces in the world these days. He added that the world economic system is not in the interest of the developing states. President Numayri stressed that during the past period, Sudan proudly watched Romania's brave role which is committed to the struggle against the eruption of a world war and to the achievement of peace in Europe and in the whole world. He added that Sudan has followed up with admiration President Ceausescu's brave and daring role in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe which was held in Madrid. President Numayri also greeted Romania's denunciation of foreign intervention in other states' affairs and its call for the foreign forces' withdrawal from Palestine, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Namibia, and Kampuchea.

Addressing President Ceausescu, President Numayri said: I believe that you agree with us that the local tensions and conflicts eventually lead to more tension and increase dangers to the world situation. He said that this is what we see in Afghanistan and the Middle East [words indistinct].

President Numayri condemned the occupation of other people's land by force and the foreign intervention in the independent states' affairs. He also called for respecting the sovereignty of these states and announced that Sudan calls for the withdrawal of the foreign forces which are present in other states such as Chad. He said that Sudan calls for putting an end to the Israeli aggression against Arab peoples, for Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied territories including southern Lebanon, and for enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their complete national rights including the establishment of their independent state. President Numayri voiced Sudan's complete support for the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He also called for the withdrawal of South Africa's forces from Namibia. President Numayri stressed the need for intensifying efforts to destroy the fascist regime in South Africa.

President Numayri announced Sudan's appreciation and support for Romania's efforts to achieve security, peace, and cooperation in Europe so as to establish relations away from the policies of the conflicting blocs and the warring axes. President Numayri said that Africa is experiencing circumstances and dangers which are similar to the European ones in terms of various axes of conflict and foreign interventions. He said: This is why Sudan is calling for leaving Africa alone to deal with its problems by itself within the framework of the OAU without any foreign interference in order to determine, through its free will, its national options and to draw up its future in light of its domestic and

foreign policies. President Numayri expressed confidence that President Ceausescu's visit will achieve great results for the future of the relations between Sudan and Romania and in the interest and benefit of the two friendly peoples.

Ceausescu's Speech Reported

JN231940 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1725 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Oct (SUNA) — Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu made a speech here today at the opening session of official talks between Sudan and Romania. Ceausescu praised the two countries' advanced relations pointing out that the previous meetings between the two presidents helped promote and strengthen these relations. He said that Romania is ready to cooperate with Sudan in the field of supplying helicopters and other equipment, and establishing factories to manufacture spare parts and equipment for military and civilian purposes and consumer goods. He said his country is prepared to cooperate with Sudan in other fields on the basis of strong cooperation. The Romanian president said that Romania had been watching with interest Sudan's successes and social and economic progress and the realization of decentralized government despite the difficulties facing the country. He expressed hope that Sudan will achieve more in this field.

Ceausescu reviewed Romania's efforts to realize prosperity and raise the Romanian people's standard of living. He also reviewed Romania's achievements on the way to building the socialist society.

Ceausescu expressed hope that the political relations between the two political systems in the two countries would develop and that the bilateral cooperation on the international level would be enhanced. He dealt with international developments pointing out the increase in world tension, arms race, and the nuclear armaments as well as the world economic situation. He stressed the need to stop the arms race, realize disarmament, stop the deployment of the new intermediate missiles in Europe, and stop the development of the existing missiles. He expressed his belief that it is possible to implement the proposals pertaining to holding negotiations between the United States and the USSR in Geneva on this subject. He expressed hope that the results of the recent meeting on European cooperation will help in this regard; and that military clashes among world states, the use of force, and the threat to use force will be avoided. He called for solving all problems through negotiations.

On the Middle East problem, Ceausescu stressed the need for a comprehensive solution to the problem by negotiations and by granting the Palestinian people their right of self-determination and of establsihing their independent state. He pointed out the possibility of holding an international conference to solve the problem in which all parties concerned will participate, including the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Ceausescu said that a just peace in the Middle East requires an independent Palestinian state and an Israeli state at the same time, stressing the need for a full, unconditional withdrawal from Lebanon to pave the way for a cease-fire and for a meeting of all of the Lebanese national forces to discuss the promotion of Lebanon's unity and sovereignty.

The Romanian president called on Iraq and Iran to stop war operations between them, withdraw their forces to the border between the two countries, and solve their conflict through negotiations. He declared Romania's support for the Namibian people's struggle for independence under SWAPO. He condemned the racist South African regime and called for the need to stop its interference in the internal affairs of its neighbors. He called for strengthening the OAU so as to enable it to bypass the African differences and misunderstanding and to solve all of the inter-African problems through negotiations.

President Ceausescu tackled the problems of the developing states, the North-South dialogue, and the UN Trade and Development Conference held recently in Belgrade. He stressed the need for strengthening cooperation among these states and applying the new world economic order. He said Romania had presented several proposals to this effect including canceling the debts of those countries with a national income between $500-600 million, and canceling the current system of interests on loans. The Romanian president stressed the need for convening a summit for the developing countries to prepare a unified strategy to face these problems, taking into account the role played by all of the world states, regardless of their systems of government, in tackling these problems.

The Romanian president called for supporting the UN activities and all of the international organizations in their efforts to solve international issues in a spirit of solidarity and democracy, stressing the importance of adopting new policies to defend peace and respect people's right to existence and independence, and strengthening cooperation among peoples on the basis of mutual benefit. In this regard, President Ceausescu referred to the European and American moves for peace in which millions of people took part.

TUNISIA

Prime Minister Interviewed on Libya, Chad

LD221811 Paris International Service in French 1500 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Interview with Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali on "Press Club" program by moderator Alain de Chalvon and correspondents Mireille Duteil, *Le Point*; Joseph Garcon, *Liberation*; (Sayeh Bekacsem), *Jeune Afrique*; (Henri Didonat), FR-3 television; Jean-Marc Calefleche, *Le Quotidien de Paris*; (Mohamed Bedeb), Tunisian Radio and Tv; and Yves Moati, Radio France Internationale — live in Council of Ministers chambers]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] In the past Libya has tried to destabilize Tunisia. But now we have seen that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has been to visit Tunisia several times, three or four times, and we have seen that you have also stepped up your commercial relations. So my question is: How and why have you made friends with Libya?

[Mzali] Well you know, there are always ups and downs and misunderstandings between neighbors. We haven't had the three wars, the great wars you have had with Germany — fortunately for us. We haven't had that. We have had problems. We are

brothers. That is a fact, and Europe must know it. We are Arab countries, we are Muslim countries, we are neighbors. There are family links between Libyans and Tunisians, as there are between Tunisians and Algerians. That is a fact. Okay, there have been problems, and thanks to wisdom from both sides, and with patience we have managed to dress the wounds, get rid of misunderstandings, and while we wait for complete agreement in the political field, we wonder why we shouldn't embark on and develop cultural, educational, and especially economic and commercial cooperation, and, thanks be to God, it is working.

And the more the Libyan and Tunisian leaders know and see each other, the less misunderstanding there is. I don't support the mentality (?that gets annoyed). If you get annoyed everyone goes off into his own corner, and then what? Today and for 5 centuries the Tunisians and Libyans will be together. Lots of armchair strategists make a mistake when they gamble on the historic rupture and (?dark trifles) between Libya and Tunisia.

[Correspondent] Do you think Colonel al-Qadhdhafi is actually sincere when he comes to Tunis?

[Mzali] Do yourself know a lot of sincere politicians? Politics is dossiers, it is problems, it is solutions, isn't it? It is a continual solution. I don't know...

[Correspondent] Do you trust him?

[Mzali] Well, objectively, Yes. Objectively, yes, of course. Now we are putting the final touches to the creation of a Tunisian-Libyan bank. We also have an agreement for Libya to take part in the construction of a new power line between the frontier and [word indistinct]

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, we are talking about Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi is involved in an important conflict in Africa, that of Chad. France is also involved in this conflict as there are French soldiers in Chad. What is Tunisia's stand in this area?

[Mzali] Our stand is clear and we defined it in the joint communique which followed the official visit of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi in mid-July 1983 at Skanes in Tunisia. The stand was clear. It is enough to refer oneself to the joint communique, and this communique was prepared even before Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's arrival. This shows that we can be on friendly terms and we can express nuances on this or that problem. Our position, is that, first, we are attached to the unity of Chad, second, we are attached to a reconciliation which must be worked out under the aegis of the OAU and in agreement with OAU motions.

[Correspondent] And French intervention, for example, do you think it is right or do you condemn it?

[Mzali] I think there is an agreement between Chad and France and it is within this agreement that France sent troops, but thank God, they have not had the opportunity yet, they have not needed to intervene and I hope, personally, as a member of the Maghreb and as an African, I hope that all foreign troops will leave Chad on the basis of national unity and the territorial integrity of Chad...

[Correspondent] Let us imagine, heaven forbid, that Tunisia is aggressed, like Chad has been. Do you hope that France would come to your rescue too?

[Mzali] We are doing everything possible to prevent any foreign intervention in Tunisia. We think that our national unity is the best guarantee and the condition of our invulnerability. The problem of Chad, as that of other African or Arab countries, is that there is no national unity [words indistinct] and this or that faction is forced to call on other foreign countries. This is why we often talk of national unity in Tunisia.

KENYA

Njonjo Inquiry Commission To Meet 28 October

EA212106 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Text] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi has directed the judicial commission of inquiry into allegations made within and outside Parliament involving Mr Charles Njonjo, the former minister for constitutional affairs and MP for Kikuyu, to hold an inquiry at 1000 in the morning on Friday next week at the old chamber of Parliament buildings. The directive is contained in a special issue of the Kenya gazette issue No 4,051 dated yesterday, October 20th.

The allegations within and outside Parliament were that Mr Charles Njonjo conducted himself in a manner prejudicial to the state and calculated to cause alarm and despondency with a view to undermining the office of the head of state of the Republic of Kenya and the image and performance of the government thereof as by law established and generally or in particular to matters pertaining to the same.

It was also alleged that the former minister was a party to a conspiracy or conspiracies to overthrow by unlawful means the Government of the Republic of Kenya during the month of August last year or the concealment of the conspiracy and that he was also party to the unlawful activities of Andrew Mungai Muthemba or he concealed the activities of Andrew Muthemba.

The former minister is also alleged to have been party to the convening of the purported Rungiri Presbyterian Church of East Africa prayer meeting on 12 June this year or its conversion into an irregular political meeting with intention of undermining the position and image of the president and political leadership of the country.

The judicial commission of inquiry is headed by Justice Millier, a judge of the court of appeal of the Republic of Kenya, as chairman. The other commissioners are Justice Madan and Mrs Justice Effie Owour. Its secretaries are Mr Benson Kangwana and Patrick Kubo, while Mr (Lee Musoga), Mr (Kinenderi Njugi), and Mr Walter Onyango [name indistinct] are its counsels.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the judicial commission of inquiry, Justice Miller, has issued a notice to be served on Mr Charles Mugane Njonjo notifying him that the commission of inquiry will assemble at the old chamber, Parliament buildings on Friday, 28 October at 10 a.m. to inquire into his conduct as alleged within and outside Parliament.

The notice requires Mr Njonjo to appear either in person or by his advocate and the hearing of the evidence to cross-examine any witness testifying, and to adduce evidence on his behalf in reputation or otherwise in relation to the evidence. The notice further also told Mr Njonjo to take note that the commission will proceed to hold the inquiry and receive evidence pertaining to the allegations his absence notwithstanding.

SOMALIA

President Barre Revolution Day Address 21 Oct

EA211721 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 0727 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Speech by Mohamed Siad Barre, president of Somalia, on the occasion of the 21 October revolution celebrations; place not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Begin Barre recording] On this 21st day of October — the day 14 years ago the October revolution was born — I would like to offer to the Somali people views which I believe the government and the party feel are of importance to the Somali people in general and those of the republic in particular. First of all, I greet and congratulate the Somali people. I also thank them for the long struggle waged over the past 14 years — a struggle aimed at achieving progress and prosperity. There is no doubt that these 14 years were not all sweet years. The Somali people encountered many situations, some difficult and some problematic. There were the floods, cholera, the drought, the war, and many others. All those problems apart from the natural calamities were the direct result of people with whom we have had connections or even identical interests. In this long period — and as you know 14 years are no trifle — and with all the various problems encountered, there is no doubt that if the Somali people had not been tough we would not have overcome all that we experienced. When I look back on the past and see how the Somali people fought and continue to fight all their problems, no matter how great or difficult — this fills one, whether he is part of it or whether he holds a responsible post, with pride and happiness. And this makes him proud of his birth.

There is no need for me to ponder on other issues which we have tackled with success — successes achieved in political, economic, social, and international fields. They say successes are visible, and any intelligent person can see them: The enemy can see them, and our (?friends) can see them. History will also prove them. On the other hand, I pray to God that the Somali people may overcome all their problems, problems inherited from before they were born or since the world was created. I pray that they may overcome all these and reach their goals in the economic, social, political, and military fields. I also hope that they may overcome and be saved from their many enemies who have designs on their dignity, respect, religion, and flag. I hope they continue with their unity and nationalism. Having said this I would add that the official speech will be read by Challe Yasin Hajji Ismail, whom you all know. I wish you success, progress, and prosperity in the coming years.

In conclusion: Hard work, education, defense of the people's interests, sound economy, concrete unity, and our knowledge of friend and enemy — all the noises from various places, from imperialism, from [word indistinct], or others who are against our independence should be checked by all — be he an intellectual, a nationalist, or teacher. That is all and I wish you victory after victory. [end Barre recording]

[Begin Yasin recording] In his speech, Challe Mohamed Siad Barre gave particular weight to the problems in the Horn. He

said: The root cause of the Horn of Africa crisis, which has reached international proportions, is the confrontation between the colonizer and the colonized peoples such as the western Somalis, the Abos, Eritreans, Tigreans, Sidama, and many others whose rights to self-determination, political, economic, and social freedom have been stifled. It is fortunate, said the president, that many nations and peoples today have come to understand the reality and cause of this problem. As we have stated on various occasions, the stand of the Somali Democratic Republic on this issue is one of support to the peoples fighting for freedom and self-determination. This meaningful support is based on the principles of human dignity, that is, all peoples must have the right to choose their own destiny and no one has the right to dictate to them. We believe in these sacred principles and we have assisted many peoples in Africa, Asia, and other parts of the world who were fighting for their rights to self-determination to shake off the yoke of colonialism. Today, said the president, they are enjoying their freedom and independence to the full.

The various peoples under Abyssinian colonialism are no different from those other peoples, and the achievement of their goals is obligatory, said Challe Siad. Challe Siad said it was surprising that the Addis Ababa regime had concentrated all its resources in building up and mobilizing the Army, forcing all Mengistu's people to join the Army, and thus diverting the economy to the military front. Abyssinia, said the president, has today become host to all sorts of military bases where massive and unlimited weapons are poured in beyond all the country's possible military requirements. In addition, the presence of foreign troops continues and is on the increase. Military activities in that country are also on the increase. Mengistu is also busily engaged in entering into military pacts with... [parties not specified]. What we need to ask ourselves, said the president, is what does a nation whose policies reflect belligerence actually mean when it cries for peace? We believe that the signs of peace are not visible in that country and that the rule of the gun with the aid of foreign troops can never solve the problem in this region. The question is: What is the solution? We believe that the entanglement in wars and the other problems prevailing here does not serve the interests of the two peoples and countries.

For this reason, we call on the Ethiopian Government, said Challe Siad, to withdraw its troops immediately from the two districts of the Somali Democratic Republic that they are occupying and then with an open and balanced attitude begin to solve the problem existing between us through discussions, thereby recognizing the interrelations between the two peoples with all their interests. They should divert all their resources currently channeled into war toward their economic and social advancement. The problems between the Abyssinian government and the people it colonizes who are fighting for independence is an issue between the Addis Ababa regime and the justified freedom fighters. We see it as vital that the parties affected by this problem should have talks to achieve a just and lasting solution which would benefit all the people in this region. The Somali Democratic Republic, said President Challe Mohamed Siad is prepared to participate in this issue in whatever way may help.

The president said that the Soviet Government, which has of late been deeply involved in the affairs of this region, being a major power should know its responsibilities toward peace and security in the world. It does not benefit Somalia to be in confrontation with the USSR, and on our part, we are prepared to bring our relations back to normal. It is necessary that both sides avoid and desist from activities that may bring about discord. The president said the constant aggression perpetrated by Abyssinia and its cohorts against the Somali Democratic Republic is responsible for the unending state of war in this region, its major motives being to realize its traditional policy of expansionism and to conquer some parts of the Somali Democratic Republic, thus creating a smokescreen to hide from the rest of world the reality of the problem in the Horn of Africa. For this reason, said the president, it is a sacred obligation for us to protect our territory from any enemy who wants to destroy the freedom, the very existence and unity of our people.

The president said the Somali nation is endowed with a strong, powerful Army of great numbers. This is clearly evident in its invincibility whenever confronted with the unholy alliance which aims to destroy our nation. Our Army, said the president, always demonstrates it traditional bravery. The president pointed out that the victories of the Army would not have been achieved were it not for the unity consolidated between the Somali people and their Army, which is reflected in the unswerving support in terms of men and materiel the people have given to the martyrs for the defense of the motherland. There is no doubt, the president went on, as a result of the situation which emerged, that the first priority was given to the defense of the country. This priority has not changed. For this reason I call on both the Somali people and the Armed Forces to cement their alliance in defending and [word indistinct] of the motherland.

The government has taken economic measures to protect our economy both outside of and within the country. As a result of those measures, notable results were achieved, said the president, which led to the increases in agricultural production and the boosting of farmers' morale. Some of the important economic measures taken were:

1. Economic agreement signed with the IMF;
2. Ending of the Franca valuta;
3. Adjustment of the Somali shilling;
4. Regulating prices of grain and easing ways of marketing;
5. Banning the cultivation, chewing, and selling of qat.

Challe Siad sid that it is known that no achievements could be realized without proper planning. In the light of these facts our beloved revolution has drawn up economic programs such as our 5-year development program 1982-86, which is divided into three sectors: our socioeconomic level, our production capacity, and economic and social relations. The president said the program is aimed at uplifting our economy while taking into consideration our population growth and that priorities have been given to livestock, agriculture, fisheries, and industry. Our development program has in most cases met with success and encouraging results have been achieved, but there are other areas where due to lack of inputs, skilled manpower, and mismanagement, there were disappointments. Investments locally and in general have

been given emphasis in order to reduce our dependence on foreign aid. Exploration of petroleum and gas has been intensified and up to now results are encouraging.

In addition, foreign investment has been given particular consideration in the production sector. The president said economic cooperation with neighboring and friendly countries has been strengthened so that each country may trade with its neighbor in what it produces most. Challe Siad said every nation has its own resources and sound parts of its economy which form the backbone of its country, which is normally strongly guarded. Thus, the backbone of our country is agriculture and livestock, and I believe that if our people are seriously committed to the development of those sectors we will achieve successes, and many of our current problems will be solved. It is true that there is competition. Unless we are careful it will place strains on our livestock exports. Part of this competition involves propaganda against the marketing of our livestock. This actually happened, but it did not succeed in this. Our people should be discouraged from neglecting livestock and agriculture and also from flocking into major towns since this handicaps the economic and social life of our people. There is no doubt that cities do not benefit us without the resources from the backbone of our economy. For this reason, I beseech you not to abandon the basis of our way of life — livestock and agriculture.

The president said the Arabic language, as you are aware, is an official language in our country since we are part of the Arab people from whom we are inseparable, be it from an historical, religious, or cultural point of view. This is what brought about our joining the Arab League. For this reason and to strengthen Arabic and the Arab culture of the Somali people we have officially launched a countrywide campaign to teach Arabic. Challe Siad said the number of lessons devoted to the teaching of Arabic in higher and intermediate schools has been increased. It is taught on the radio, and Arabic films are shown. New academies that teach Arabic have been opened. They are: the academies of the press, language, and an institute of Islamic studies and Arabic language. We are optimistic that they will go a long way in teaching Islamic studies and the Arabic language. I call on the Somali people and leaders to apply themselves and revive their Arabic culture and language, which were stifled by colonialism.

Saying that tribalism was the first disease that would mar social development, we have launched a campaign to eradicate tribalism. Since the birth of our blessed revolution we have been waging a war against tribalism and its accompanying ills such as nepotism, favoritism, [word indistinct] rumormongering, and other evils. Tribalism is a nationwrecker. Where tribalism prevails there is no place for unity and [words indistinct] an unhealthy, uneducated, and backward nation. This would in turn hamper the economic and political progress of our nation.

Turning to qat, Challe Siad said qat was a cancer that spread into the Somali society and thus caused many problems to the nation's development efforts. Challe Siad said qat stunted the fulfillment of various national activities. This in turn blocked solutions to the problems of Somali society and the country's development. Over and above the economic and political difficulties it faced, the country was losing about 849 million Somali shillings, which is $57 million, every year on qat and the condiments associated with it. This is equivalent to 5.7 percent of our GNP and is potentially capable of paying for 37 percent of our annual imports of essential commodities. The Somali president said a total of 200,000 people using at least 1,000 vehicles were involved in the qat trade. Moreover, Somali qat consumers exacerbated the issue by unreasonably spending all their meager resources on qat and also by resorting to embezzling public property, robbery, and begging pathetically. The qat plantations, on the other hand, occupied huge tracts of the country's land, which could have been used to plant crops of benefit to the people. Increasingly, tracts of farmland were being transformed into qat plantations and more and more young people were becoming habituated to chewing qat, which also led to the breakup of many families, while national responsibilities were being neglected, said the president. If we examine and scrutinize the abovementioned problems which resulted from qat in the light of many other economic, security, political, and social problems, I can confidently state that the party and government's decision to ban qat was vitally necessary in order to save the Somali people from the problems and chaos qat created. The president said: Inasmuch as we were aware that many people relied on the qat trade for their livelihood, the government took steps to encourage these people to divert their resources and skills to productive activities which would benefit them and their country equally. Some of the measures adopted are:

1. That the local government endorse qat licences for any alternative trade;

2. To facilitate businessmen involved in qat trade to turn to other productive activities and;

3. That the Ministry of Agriculture guide and aid qat growers to plant alternative productive seeds on their land.

The Somali president said in conclusion: I urge the Somali people to fight a relentless war against such unpatriotic and naive persons who are trying to smuggle qat over the border — people who are being used by the enemies of the Somali people. The Somali president said it was the duty of every responsible Somali and the people to concentrate their efforts on fighting these elements and thus, to achieve the complete eradication of qat. [end Yasin recording]

GHANA

Accra Denounces Grenadan Leader's 'Murder'

AB211715 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Grenada's revolutionary leader, Maurice Bishop, and a number of his comrades in arms have been coldly murdered. Grenada, a small country, was set on the path of making a big revolution. The revolution has been set back possibly for years, but it has not been stopped. A deathly cloud of doom has appeared in the revolutionary skies of Central and Latin America. A damnable thunderbolt has struck in the universe of the progressive world. The hyenas of reaction have fed on the blood of Grenada's revolutionary people. Maurice Bishop is dead but he lives on. The people march on. The revolution in Grenada is not finished. It has been set back and the lessons abound plentifully for all countries, all peoples, and all leaders who choose the path of revolution to make life meaningful for the oppressed and the wretched of the earth.

Lesson one: The most gratifying news in the week-long battle against progress in Grenada is this — thirty-thousand men and women bravely, boldly, and confidently stormed the barricade to free Maurice Bishop from his terrorist captors. This is the most significant development because once again it is a testimony that the only force that can make revolution, the only force that makes history, the only force that builds a nation, indeed the only force whose action judges leaders as popular or condemns leaders as criminal, is the popular forces we often gladly call the masses.

The action of the Grenadan popular masses alone is a testimony of the great revolutionary stature of Maurice Bishop. The actions of the Grenadan people to fight off the traitors of the murder is the best judgment that the imposters on the island are nothing less than traitors. There is nothing revolutionary about the military council set up by the traitors. It is a masquerade.

Lesson two: Enemies of the popular revolution can beat their time, plot, wait, and strike at the least opportunity. They infiltrate the ranks and organs of the revolution, wait, conspire, maneuver, and sometimes even shout revolutionary slogans and strike at the least opportunity.

Lesson three: When the traitors struck in Grenada, who was killed? The revolutionary leader was coldly murdered. At least four courageous revolutionary ministers and two leaders of the labor movement were gunned down. Countless other militants, workers, and members of the revolutionary committees were and will be mowed down by the fascists who have imposed themselves on Grenada. The program of the fascists will by all means not depart from the pattern set in Chile in 1973 and after. They will squirt the blood-drenched sands of Grenada of any militant at the grassroots. [as heard]

In order to maintain its rules in such a highly politicized society like Grenada, the only alternative left for the imposters will be to murder hundreds of workers, farmers, patriots, and militants who work in all fields of life to make life better for Grenadans. This is a hard lesson our militants in the defense committees and unions must know without fail. This is a hard lesson the patriotic soldiers and officers must never forget. This is a hard lesson our state officials must never gloss over, the lesson that, when reaction strikes, it will maintain its rule by an orgy of murder and rape. But the greatest lesson we need to learn from the tragedy of Grenada is that we must organize more thoroughly than ever the defense committees.

It is no secret that the defense committees are dying. They are losing strength. They are demoralized and completely confounded. It is no secret that many state officials pay no attention at all to the question of the defense committees. They are left on their own searching and groping in the dark for consciousness and direction. The greatest security for any revolution is the organization of the people. When Kwame Nkrumah said organization decides everything, he meant precisely this. Maurice Bishop is murdered. In his death it is a fact that must goad us into action. A revolutionary of universal stature is dead. The biggest lesson from this act of treachery to all revolutionaries must be, do not mourn, organize.

LIBERIA

Doe Leaves for Donors Conference in Switzerland

AB221330 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1200 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] The head of state, Commander in Chief Samuel K. Doe, has left the country at the head of a 40-man delegation for Berne, Switzerland. The commander in chief, who left Monrovia early this morning, is going to Switzerland to launch the first donors conference on Liberia.

PRC Secretary General Removed From Office

AB212200 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Text] The newly-appointed secretary general of the People's Redemption Council [PRC], Brigadier General Thomas G. Quiwonkpa, has been released from the Armed Forces of Liberia and from his position as secretary general of the PRC. The decision was contained in a letter from the council endorsed by its members and presented to the head of state this evening at the Executive Mansion. The council referred to the matter of Gen Quiwonkpa put before it by the head of state for the timely consideration referring to its objections to accepting the post of secretary general. [sentence as heard] The council's letter said: "It is noted by the council that the general, being a member of the council's Executive Committee, was among those attending the recent meeting of the committee where consensus decisions concerning changes in certain high council and government positions were taken.

"The council notes further that Brig Gen Quiwonkpa, subsequent to these decisions, has refused to take up his assignment as the new secretary general of the council until certain concerns have been addressed. Notwithstanding assurances from the council,

the former commanding general has remained adamant in his position of refusal. A careful review and discussion of this matter leaves the council convinced that the behavior displayed by Gen Quiwonkpa is an act of gross disrespect to the office of the head of state, the PRC, and the entire Liberian nation. To allow it to stand would be to establish a precedent that would most certainly lead to widespread indiscipline, disregard, and disobedience to constituted authority — an eventuality that would endanger the continuity of the state.

"Upon careful reflection on these premises, therefore, the council is left with no alternative but to resolve and to recommend that our colleague and brother, Gen Thomas G. Quiwonkpa, be dismissed from the council and the Armed Forces of Liberia, together with a forfeiture of all benefits normally associated with retirement. We wish to seize this opportunity to renew assurances of highest esteem."

In endorsing the council's decision today, the head of state appointed Colonel Denny (Kimmerth) as the new secretary general of the council. Commenting on the council's position, the head of state said he had personally exhausted every possible avenue of understanding on the issue with the general. He said the general had personally participated in a series of meetings and had personally recommended Colonel Morris B. (Zippi) as his successor. He also noted that the general has flatly refused to participate in a welcoming reception for Presidents Stevens and Toure and to be at the dedication of the national archives building. He said he had no alternative but to approve the council's letter, as to do otherwise would serve as an encouragement for indiscipline in the Army.

MALI

Ghana's Rawlings Arrives for Visit, Interviewed

AB212030 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Text] Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] and Ghana's head of state, arrived in Bamako soon before 1100 this morning for a working and friendly visit to our country. He was met on arrival at the Bamako-Senou airport by General Moussa Traore, secretary general of the party and president, who was accompanied by members of the Central Executive Bureau, the government, the National Assembly, the diplomatic and consular corps, and several other high ranking officials. Flight Lt Rawlings explains to the Malian press the purpose of his visit here.

[Begin recording] [Rawlings in English fading into French translation] (?I am sure that) you did not hear what your president just said. But the African passion for liberation is not an academic exercise. It is something concrete. It is a reality that our people are experiencing today. I mean the different kinds of problems that exist in Africa today. We are the people who have the key to try to help our people so that they can liberate themselves and realize their objectives as much as possible. My presence here in Mali is aimed at examining with my brother the areas in which we can strengthen our bonds of cooperation in order to realize the aspirations and objectives of our two peoples.

[Question by unidentified reporter] Mr President, according to the news, Ghana's political and economic situation has frequently been the concern of the PNDC that you head? You are the person to brief us on the health of Ghana.

[Rawlings] After having chosen this political philosophy by which we abide — and this is quite normal; that is to say the philosophy of the liberation of the Ghanaian and Malian peoples, — it is quite normal that we should have problems — problems caused by some people who do not want Ghanaians and Malians to develop, especially in the Third World. My prime minister [as heard], the ministers of interior and information who are with me here, will give you all the necessary information you need. But it is important to note that this why we — both of us, the two peoples — must strengthen our cooperation in the areas that can be of mutual advantage to Ghana and Mali. That is to say that what Ghana alone realizes economically, we can realize 10 times more fully if we are able to examine the economic area of our cooperation, especially economic interaction between our various countries. That is to say that the key to the liberation of the Ghanaian people depends on this interaction with our brotherly peoples. To me, there is only one logical economic philosophy which is based on the fact that the people must take part in the economic policy-making process in which they can develop.

There is a principle rule which governs the liberation of peoples. That is to say, finding the means of satisfying the needs of the people. This explains the vast and complicated implications for the realization of the objectives that I have just talked about. Therefore, for us, the realization of our liberty means that the people must deprive themselves of some of their past needs — things we do not produce ourselves — a sort of foreign culture.

[Reporter] Mr President, what is your opinion on some of Africa's current hot issues — Western Sahara and Chad?

[Rawlings] Ghana's position on Western Sahara is clear. The right of a people to a normal life should not be questioned. Perhaps the form or contents of this life can be discussed, but the existence of a people cannot be debated. Concerning Chad, I think the Chadian brothers have to unite and begin dialogue in the supreme interest of the Chadian people. To this effect, any intervention at all in that country must be capable of uniting the people. The Chadian problem is not a purely Chadian problem. It is a continental problem. It is a Malian problem. It is a Ghanaian problem. It is a problem that concerns Nigeria. It is therefore necessary to find a solution to this impasse in Chad as soon as possible. [end recording]

That was Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings speaking to Tsonoua Mathieu Kone. The Ghanaian head of state is being accompanied specifically by Mr Obeng, the PNDC coordinating secretary; Kofi Djin, the Ghanaian minister of interior representing the foreign affairs minister; and Miss Joyce Aryee, the minister of information. The two heads of state will hold a private meeting this afternoon, and at 1600 the Malian and Ghanaian delegations will hold a working session. The PNDC chairman will hold a press conference at the Amitie Hotel tomorrow and will preside together with President Moussa Traore over the opening session of the Malian Chamber of Commerce.

Rawlings Comments, Leaves

AB221450 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] Ghanaian head of state Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings left Bamako this morning at the end of a 24-hour visit to Mali. Before leaving for Accra, Flight Lt Rawlings this morning gave a press conference before copresiding with General Moussa Traore over the opening of the national commercial week organized by the CMCE [expansion unknown]. During his talks with the press, the Ghanaian head of state expressed his satisfaction with the results of the deliberations of the Malian and Ghanaian delegations. Cooperation between Bamako and Accra is going to be reinforced for the benefit of our two peoples.

[Begin Rawlings recording in English fading into French translation] [Passage indistinct] I know that in coming to Mali, my hopes will be fulfilled or at least the desire for contact — a thing that we should have in view and try to concretize — has been established, though it must take time to develop it. For the moment we have made some arrangements and put something on paper, but I am convinced like the two (?chairmen) and the top officials in this room that the things we have put on paper will not remain a dead letter but that we shall move a step forward to try to transform them into reality. There is no need for a high-sounding speech or lecture on the freedom of countries in Africa. We must forge forward for this is a pressing necessity. I will say in conclusion that the development of Africa depends on this and that we must do everything in our power for the advancement of Africa. [end recording]

Concerning Malian nationals resident in Ghana, Flight Lt Jerry Rawlings said they are welcome on Ghanaian soil.

[Begin Rawlings recording in English fading into French translation] The very fact that a Malian community is in my country is a good thing in the sense that we are searching for African unity. How can countries or states searching for African unity threaten to or arrogate to themselves the privilege of driving away the nationals of other countries that come into those states? I do not know. I think that by receiving people from our neighboring countries, we will have a small embryo of Africa unity. This can intensify cooperation between states and also develop economic interaction between states. I think the Malian community in Ghana is getting along well. [end recording]

The head of state of Ghana was seen off by President Moussa Traore, as well as by members of the Central Executive Bureau, of the government, of the national assembly bureau, and of the diplomatic and consular corps. Flight Lt Rawlings was accompanied by three members of his government, Prime Minister [as heard] Obeng, Secretary for Internal Affairs Kofi Djin and secretary for Information Mrs Joyce Aryee. The Malian and Ghanaian delegations, led respectively by President Moussa Traore and head of state Jerry Rawlings, held a working session yesterday afternoon in Koulouba. This working session was marked by a final communique. It stands out in this final communique that the two sides agreed to strengthen their bilateral cooperation and decided to reactivate the joint Ghana-Mali commission for cooperation. The two sides also noted an identity of views on African and international issues.

Accra Reports Final Communique

AB230720 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] The chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, has declared that the time has come for African states to give more beneficial and meaningful dimensions to their relations.

He said interaction between African states should go beyond mere intentions, couched in diplomatic language, to a more positive fertilization of good intentions. Flight Lt Rawlings was speaking at a news conference in Bamako at the end of his 2-day friendly and working visit to Mali.

The PNDC chairman, who has since returned home, pledged that Ghana will continue to consult with her neighbors and maintain a high level of interaction. He said the presence of the large Malian community in Ghana is an expression of the country's desire to advance the process of interaction.

The PNDC coordinating secretary, Mr P.V. Obeng, who also addressed the news conference, said the meetings held during the visit reflect the intense need to break away from the exploitative exchange of resources with the European world.

He hinted that it will soon be possible for Mali to supply cotton to the processing industries in Ghana. This will be followed by the training of Malians in the skill of processing cotton in cloth.

A communique issued after their talks said Flight Lt Rawlings and President Traore expressed satisfaction at the atmosphere of understanding existing between their countries and reiterated their desire to further develop cooperation between them. To this end, the next session of the Ghana -Mali joint permanent for cooperation will be held in Accra in December this year.

The communique expressed concern about the worsening situation in Chad and stressed that the crisis there should be resolved through national reconciliation, respect for sovereignty, and the total withdrawal of all foreign forces.

It condemned the aggressive policies of the fascist Pretoria regime against the frontline states and reaffirmed support for the just struggle of the people of southern Africa against colonialism, racism, and apartheid.

On Western Sahara, the communique expressed regret at the failure to hold the last consultative meeting of the OAU in Addis Ababa and reaffirmed support for negotiations between Morocco and the Polisario Front for freedom and self-determination for the area.

On the Middle East, Flight Lt Rawlings and President Traore expressed the need for the Palestinian people, under the PLO, to recover their homeland. They condemned Israel's policy of annexation and demanded her withdrawal from all occupied territories. The two leaders pledged to meet regularly to consolidate further their fraternal relations.

TOGO

Reportage on General Eyadema's Visit to U.S.

Leaves for Visit

AB221420 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the Togolese People's Rally [RPT] and president of the republic, today left for Washington, the American federal capital, for an official visit at the invitation of the U.S. Government. The head of state was seen off this morning at the Tokoin International Airport by a large crowd of militants among whom were members of the Central Committee, parliamentarians, members of national bureaus of the RPT, members of Lome City Council, permanent secretaries, general secretaries, assistant principal private secretaries, and heads of departments.

The militant people of Lome and its surrounding areas also mobilized this morning to cheer President Eyadema along the presidential route. On his arrival at the airport at about 0730, the head of state listened to the national anthem played by the Togolese Armed Forces. He reviewed the troops under the command of Major Lawani and shook hands with the numerous personalities present. The founding chairman of the RPT also spent some time with party activists of Lome districts before boarding his command plane, a DC-8 in Togolese national colors, which took off at about 0757.

Comments on Chad, Sahara

AB230725 Paris AFP in French 1339 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] Dakar, 22 Oct (AFP) — Togolese head of state General Gnassingbe Eyadema has stressed the progress made, according to him, in the Chadian problem since the French -African summit in Vittel.

He was speaking during a stopover in Dakar. According to the Togolese president, the summit has made President Hissein "recognize the reality of the facts by agreeing to reach out his hand to his opponents." Speaking on the Western Sahara conflict, President Eyadema expressed support for the implementation of the OAU resolutions adopted at the last summit in Addis Ababa. The Togolese head of state, who was greeted during his stopover in Dakar by President Diouf of Senegal, left the Senegalese capital later in the day for the United States.

Arrives in U.S.

AB230920 Lome Domestic Service in French 0615 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Excerpt] General Gnassingbe Eyadema, The founding chairman of the Togolese People's Rally and president of the republic, arrived last night in Washington, the U.S. federal capital, where he began an official visit at the invitation of the United States Government.

Commentary Hails Visit

AB221240 Lome Domestic Service in French 0615 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Umba Kpenougou Commentary]

[Text] The announcement of the trip to the United States by the president of the republic gives us a foretaste of what is going to be an important visit by the founding-chairman of the Togolese People's Rally, RPT. The trip will have two major stages, the first scheduled for Washington where he will meet President Ronald Reagan at the White House, and the second in New York at the Manhattan (?glass) palace, where the RPT founding-chairman will confer with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Thus in Washington, the federal capital, the Eyadema-Reagan meeting at the White House will no doubt be one of the great moments of the visit of the man of 13 January to the United States. It will be a meeting of two men deeply committed to peace, whose daily activities are geared toward the search for and maintenance of peace between peoples.

Indeed, it has been 3 years since Ronald Reagan was installed at the White House as the 40th president of the United States, the greatest power in this world. One of his principal watchwords in matters of foreign policy is the search for peace by every means. For according to him, Americans consider war as an aberration of nature, and this calls for the pursuit of negotiations for the maintenance of peace and security. According to President Reagan, Americans continue to trust in reason and also in man's ability to resolve disputes peacefully. Whatever the ultimate results of current and future negotiations, says President Reagan, the unequivocal efforts of American leaders in this regard demonstrate their real desire to maintain lasting peace and security in the world.

These are statements that fully concur with the major concerns of the RPT founding-chairman, General Gnassingbe Eyadema, who 2 weeks ago made similar appeals to his French and African counterparts in Vittel, France. Our continent, Africa, is more than ever in need of peace and security, which must allow us to mobilize our enemies, our resources, our know-how, and our capabilities for the cause of development in serenity and peace. President Eyadema and President Reagan will exchange messages of peace in order to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the United States and Togo. Moreover, cooperation between the two countries is free of problems at present and the U.S. Agency for International Development's [AID] contribution to the Togolese Government's efforts to develop our country is significant, namely one farming project using harnessed animals, two food projects, one project for raising small grass-eating animals, a center to create industries in Amoche and the Conoleg [expansion unknown] project, which are all financed by AID totalling $6.3 million, as well as a village water supply project being carried out thanks to AID financing worth $6,137 million, to which must be added the dynamic activities of Peace Corps personnel in our remote areas. All this proves the vitality of Togo-U.S. cooperation, which no doubt will be further strengthened by this trip by the RPT founding-chairman to the United States. But the stage of General Eyadema's visit to New York also assumes its full meaning when it is known how much this world organization contributes to the

maintenance of peace among men. The United Nations Organization, which was born out of immense human suffering and substantial destruction following World War II, has today become a true forum for all peace-loving nations. The UN's singular role is deserving of Gen Eyadema, the man of peace, going there to contribute his support and the support of all the Togolese people to the UN's peace mission.

Moreover, Mr Perez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary General, and Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema know each other well. In Paris in September 1982, the RPT founding-chairman received Mr de Cuellar in audience. The two men admired each other for their mutual efforts to safeguard world peace. Tomorrow's meeting will therefore be between two messengers of peace. This is why we dare believe that this trip by the RPT founding-chairman to the United States will greatly contribute to strengthening cooperation between Togo and United States and to the search for peace among men.

ANGOLA

UN Envoy Statement at Security Council Reported

MB231147 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] The Angolan representative to the United Nations, Comrade Elidio de Figueiredo, has appealed to the UN Security Council to reject all attempts aimed at linking the Namibian issue to factors unrelated to it and to adopt concrete measures aimed at forcing the Pretoria racist regime to accept the decisions of the international community based on Article 6 of the UN Charter. Comrade Elidio de Figueiredo, who was speaking at the UN Security Council meeting on Namibia Friday, underlined the urgent need for sanctions and an end to political, economic, and military support by the Western powers to the Pretoria racist regime, as well as the strengthening of the armed struggle carried out by SWAPO as the only alternative to force the South African racists to accept the implementation of Resolution 435. South Africa will continue to feel free to carry out its acts of aggression against sovereign states of southern Africa with impunity and to continue to occupy and exploit Namibia as long as it continues to receive political and economic support from its Western allies, the Angolan UN representative also said.

Accordingly, Comrade Elidio de Figueiredo denounced the so-called constructive engagement between the regimes of Washington and Pretoria, which enables the South African racist forces to engage in acts of destabilization against Angola and to illegally occupy Namibia and some areas of southern Angola, as well as to unleash acts of armed aggression against frontline states. In conclusion, Comrade Elidio de Figueiredo reaffirmed once again the solidarity of the People's Republic of Angola with the just struggle of the Namibian people under the leadership of SWAPO, its sole and legitimate representative.

Dos Santos Receives Message From Bulgaria

MB231019 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Todor Zhivkov, the president of Bulgaria, has reiterated the solidarity of his country with the Angolan people's struggle to build a new society and to defend their national sovereignty. In a message addressed to Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the signing of the cooperation convention between our country and Bulgaria, the Bulgarian head of state expressed the solidarity of his country with Angola, saying that these bilateral ties will continue to be deep-rooted and will be enriched in the future for the well-being of the two peoples and of socialism in the world.

In turn, the newspaper *Rabotnichesko Delo* pointed out, the Bulgarian people highly value the active role played by the People's Republic of Angola in its support for the just struggle of the peoples of Namibia and South Africa. The continued acts of provocation and aggression by the South African regime, the daily went on, will not prevent the Angolan people from following the chosen path of profound socioeconomic transformations.

Dos Santos Holds Talks With PCF's Marchais

MB220755 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] Official talks are under way in Luanda between delegations from the MPLA-Labor Party, led by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, and the French Communist Party [PCF], led by Georges Marchais, the secretary general of the party, who is on a visit to Angola. The Angolan delegation includes Lucio Lara, Juliao Mateus Paulo Dino Matross, Alexandre Rodrigues Kito, and Antonio dos Santos Franca Ndalo, all members of the Political Bureau; Roberto de Almeida, a candidate member of the Political Bureau; and Afonso van Dunem Mbinda, a member of the Central Committee of the MPLA-Labor Party.

Yesterday afternoon a member of the Central Committee of the French Communist Party and of the delegation led by Georges Marchais on a visit to Angola held a meeting with a SWAPO delegation, led by its representative in Angola, David (Mulolo). Yesterday morning the secretary general of the French Communist Party visited the People's Palace, where he paid homage to the late President Agostinho Neto and laid a wreath at his sarcophagus.

Portuguese Envoy Comments on Strengthening Ties

MB240750 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 24 Oct 83

[Text] Pinto da Franca, the new Portuguese ambassador to Angola, has said in Luanda that he will do everything in his power to strengthen Portuguese-Angolan cooperation for the benefit of the two people. Speaking to newsmen shortly after presenting his credentials to President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, Ambassador Pinto da Franca said that his wish is based on the fact that Angola is one of the priorities in Portugal's foreign policy. The ambassador also said that during his meeting with Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos he reaffirmed the Portuguese Government's great desire to strengthen cooperation in various fields.

Operations Against UNITA Reported; 100 Captured

MB220751 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] About 100 UNITA counterrevolutionaries captured in Huambo by our defense and security forces in coordinated actions with the local residents will be presented to the public at a mass rally in that province's capital tomorrow, Sunday. These captured bandits have carried out terrorist actions in various municipalities of Huambo Province. In the continued operations carried out by the People's Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] against UNITA counterrevolutionary gangsters, a number of bandits have been killed. Over 37 men belonging to the terrorist gangs operating in Benguela and Bie Provinces sowing death and destruction have been killed.

According to information obtained by ANGOP from official sources, in the last 15 days the Angolan Armed Forces broke through the regions of (Calengu Lungo) and (Chicuca) in Balombo municipality, Benguela Province, and in (Cangundu)

and Bocoio in the same province, where they destroyed the (Quarta Dois) counterrevolutionary base. During FAPLA attacks seven UNITA bandits were killed and two others captured. One was identified as the chief of the base destroyed by the Angolan Armed Forces. FAPLA also freed 25 children, 15 women, and 2 men held by UNITA. A large quantity of war materiel was captured, and 28 head of cattle stolen by the puppets from the peasants were recovered.

In Bie Province FAPLA soldiers in joint actions with the People's Defense Organization carried out attacks on enemy positions and killed 30 UNITA counterrevolutionaries and wounded many others at Soma Cuanza commune. In their flight, the bandits left behind a large quantity of war materiel and various equipment.

The intensive action being carried out by FAPLA against UNITA counterrevolutionary gangsters has started to create such a state of total disorganization for the bandits that a large number of people being held by them are now fleeing and presenting themselves to the authorities. In Benguela a group of people was able to flee from the murderous claws of UNITA and present themselves to the local authorities, to whom they denounced the atrocities they were subjected to in what they described as true Nazi-type concentration camps, where people are dying from hunger and thirst and being killed in cold blood by the counterrevolutionaries. According to these people, these acts of barbarity can only end with the total annihilation of the UNITA gangsters and the expulsion of the South African racist troops from our country.

UNITA Reports An-22 Shot Down, Operations

MB211523 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 21 Oct 83

["Communique from the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola General Staff" on UNITA operations — issued in Angola on 5 October]

[Text] In the Provinces of Moxico, Cuando Cubango, Bie, Huila, Mocamedes, and Cuanza Sul UNITA armed forces took action against Cubans and the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] 23 September-4 October 1983. In the attacks 113 FAPLA soldiers were killed. UNITA forces captured 20 FAPLA soldiers and killed 38 Cubans, in addition to 52 FAPLA soldiers who surrendered to UNITA with their weapons. Our forces shot down one Antonov-22 aircraft in (Camanongue), Moxico Province, and an MI-8 helicopter in Cuchi. A train was attacked 50 km from Lubango and a locomotive, 8 oil tankers, and 27 railway carriages were destroyed. UNITA suffered 9 dead, 32 wounded, and 2 missing during the same period.

On 4 October 1983 the enemy post of Cariango in Cuanza Sul Province was attacked and several enemy soldiers were killed and over 100 weapons were captured. Also captured was a Cuban soldier named (Dionizio Hernandes), born on 17 November 1956 in Cuba at La Granita in Alteras municipality. He is married to (Miria Amelia Gonzales) and has two sons. He arrived in Angola on 2 June 1982 and is an elite marksman in unit No 6200.

The struggle triumphs. United, we shall win.

[Signed] Brigadier Demostenes Amos Chilingutila, chief of the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola General Staff.

LESOTHO

Sekhonyana Receives Soviet Envoy's Credentials

MB211858 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, The Honorable E.R. Sekhonyana, this morning received credentials of the charge d'affaires of the USSR, Mr Sergey Z. Smirnov. Mr Smirnov arrived in Maseru yesterday afternoon via Maputo.

MADAGASCAR

New Government, Revolutionary Council Named

AB211142 Paris AFP in English 1131 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Text] Antananarivo, Oct 21 (AFP) — Following are the new government and Supreme Revolutionary Council of Madagascar announced today:

Prime Minister	Colonel Desire Rakotoarijaona
Finance & Economy	Pascal Rakotomavo
Agricultural Production	Yves Leone Ramelison
Animal Production, Water and Forests	Joseph Randrianasolo
Trade	Georges Solofoson
Industry, Energy & Mines	Tantely Rene Andrianarivo
Population, Social Affairs	Remi Tiandraza
Culture and Arts	Gisele Rabesahala
Telecommunications and Posts	Rakotoavoa-Andriantiana
Justice	Gilbert Sambson
Transport, Food & Tourism	Joseph Bedo
Civil Service & Labour	Georges Ruphin
Defence	Rear-Admiral Guy Sibon
Health	Dr Jean-Jacques Seraphin
Interior	Ampy Augustin Portos
Basic and Secondary Education	Charles Zeny
Higher Education	Ignace Rakoto
Scientific Research	Antoine Zafera
Information	Bruno Rakotomavo
Foreign Affairs	Jean Bemananjara
Public Works	Lieutenant-Colonel Victor Ramahatra

Members of the Supreme Revolutionary Council are Arsene Ratsifehera, Mora Etienne, Michel Mahatsanga, Richard Andriamanjato, Razanabahiny Marojama, Rakotoavoa

Razakaboana, Radio Celestin, Justin Rakotoniaina, Solo Norbert Andriamorasata, Jean-Baptiste Ramanantsalama, Jean de Dieu Randriantanany, Fiakara Jean Ferlin, Georges Thomas Andrianjafy, Ferdinand Jaotombo, Simon Pierre, Manandafy Rakotonirina, Theophile Andrianoelisoa, Sosony Andre, Marson Max and Voanoro [name as received]

MAURITIUS

Vice Premier Denies Reports on RSA Visit

MB211539 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1400 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Text] The deputy prime minister of Mauritius, Sir Gaetan Duval, has denied that he is to visit South Africa. The denial was made by Gaetan's secretary in a telephone conversation with our Africa desk today.

Ealier, news agencies reported that Sir Gaetan was to visit South Africa soon to negotiate a 20-year credit line to finance the purchase of coal. Mauritius has important trade links with South Africa, and thousands of South African tourists visit the country each year.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Returns From European Tour 22 October

MB221234 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 22 Oct 83

[Text] President Samora Machel arrived back in Maputo this morning at the end of a six-nation European tour that has taken him to Belgium, Holland, Portugal, Yugoslavia, France, and Britain. The president, heading a large delegation, was welcomed at the airport by senior party and government officials and by the ambassadors of the six countries he visited.

Before leaving Britain yesterday, Mozambique's foreign minister, Joaquim Chissano, said one of the aims had been to discourage investments in South Africa and increase investments in its neighbors. This, he said, would decrease Pretoria's arrogance and its hegemonistic stands toward other countries in the region. Mr Chissano also said there was a strong possibility that Mozambique Army officers would be trained at the Sandhurst Military Academy near London.

The final communique issued at the end of the visit to Britain said Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had accepted an invitation to visit Mozambique. A presidential aide who was on the visit to Britain described it as a brilliant success in so far as it helped to consolidate the existing relations between Mozambique and Britain. It would now be possible to increase economic cooperation and perhaps even to take cooperation to other levels such as the military level. The aide added that President Samora's talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher went extremely well and that she had acknowledged that she now had a better understanding of the situation in southern Africa.

Machel Discusses U.S. Relations, European Tour

PM201502 Paris Le Monde in French 18 Oct 83 p 3

[Interview with Mozambique President Samora Machel by Jose Rebelo in Lisbon — date not given]

[Text] Question: For some time we have been witnessing a very visible rapprochement between your country and the United States which, moreover, has just appointed a diplomatic representative to Maputo. In addition, Mozambique is stepping up its contacts with the IMF. Is this a new line for Mozambique diplomacy?

Answer: Let us start with the IMF. The Mozambique Government is busy studying the mechanisms and listing the advantages of our country's possible participation in that institution. In September we attended the last IMF meeting as special guests. In general we are open to cooperation with everybody — on one condition — provided it serves the interests of our country and our people.

In addition, the U.S. Administration has started a frank and open dialogue with us. This corresponds to the desire which we have expressed many times to establish better relations with a country with a democratic tradition and in which we have great friends. Morevoer, we do not underestimate the advanced technology of the United States, which can help us to implement some of our development plans. Thus, we are in favor of U.S. enterprises investing in Mozambique.

We have already tried several experiments, which have proved very positive.

Question: Can this new dialogue with the United States influence the currently very tense relations between Mozambique and South Africa?

Answer: Our negotiations with the United States are not determined by the war — not officially declared — which the racist South African regime is waging against us. We have completely separated the two questions. Can the United States exert pressure on the Pretoria authorities in our favor? That is a good question which should be put to the U.S. Administration itself.

Question: There seems to be a resurgence of the guerrilla warfare waged by the Mozambique National Resistance Movement. What exactly is the situation?

Answer: Our country is suffering aggression from the South African apartheid regime. To attain its objectives Pretoria has recruited and trained gangsters who have infiltrated Mozambique territory. They are supplied by South Africa, which is guiding their criminal actions. These murderous gangsters are mutilating and abducting Mozambicans and destroying schools and medical installations. They are plundering stores, stealing the population's cattle, and burning the fields cultivated by poor and peace-loving peasants.

Is that guerrilla warfare? Is that resistance? How can these gangsters be regarded as "resistance fighters." What are they "resisting?" progress? What are they resisting when they rape

children and pregnant women? Those gangsters are merely agents of the racist South African Army. They aim to create an atmosphere of insecurity and terror in our country — the same atmosphere that the Pretoria army is trying to create inside South Africa. They want to destabilize Mozambique in order to prevent our development effort and our desire for development, which is economically independent from South Africa.

Those gangsters, who are merely an instrument of aggression, have no ideology and no political plan. They do not even form an opposition. They are hired assassins.

Our people and our Army are committed to the struggle against those gangsters. We will only stop when they have been completely eliminated.

"We Are in a State of General Underdevelopment"

Question: What is the reason for the tour you are making of the European Continent?

Answer: We want to strengthen the ties of friendship between our peoples and extend relations between our states. In addition, during the liberation struggle, we had the benefit of a broad movement of solidarity in some countries, which developed particularly in the Netherlands and in Britain, where many support committees were set up. Yugoslavia is a unique case: It is a socialist country which has always given us unswerving support. Finally, in Portugal, we wanted to pay tribute to the people who were our allies in the struggle against the fascist colonialist regime.

Question: You have had long talks on the Lome Convention at EEC Headquarters in Brussels...

Answer: Yes. We have been following the actions taken in the framework of the Lome Convention for some time. We attended the Lome II meeting as observers. At present we are playing a direct and active part in negotiations on the next convention. In our view the Lome Convention is an important forum in the context of North-South dialogue.

Question: Is that not a change in strategy by a country like Mozambique, which claims to follow socialism?

Answer: We have always advocated and practiced a policy of diversification in cooperation based on the principle of equality and respect for each state's sovereignty and independence. Joining the Lome Convention is based on this desire for diversification, which is the best guarantee for our national sovereignty.

Question: Your country is extremely fertile but, paradoxically, the population lacks meat and vegetables. How do you explain this situation?

Answer: There is indeed a contradiction between the potential wealth of our natural resources and the low level of our productive forces. In addition, the vast majority of Mozambicans are illiterate; they are peasants, practice a subsistence economy, and use rudimentary techniques.

We have a terrible shortage of industrial infrastructures and we lack an efficient transport network and technicians, skilled labor, and investments. We are in a state of general underdevelopment, bequeathed by colonialism and aggravated by the world economic crisis and by South Africa's racist attacks. Starting from this difficult situation, our people have begunthe fight against famine, poverty, and illiteracy. It is a very difficult struggle, in which we have already recorded victories and in which we have also made mistakes. However, the decisive factor is our people's mobilization and their will to win.

Question: Does France play a significant role in this development effort?

Answer: We have had excellent relations of cooperation with France since independence. Those relations have gradually been extended to major industrial and agricultural projects.

In addition, our positions are meeting with a favorable reception from the new French political leadership.

Tete Commander Reports 4 Rebel Camps Destroyed

MB211621 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Text] The Tete provincial military commander, Brigadier Matias Juma, said recently that during the preparations for the fourth party congress the Mozambique Armed Forces in the province destroyed four armed bandit camps. Matias Juma said that since then the armed bandits have dispersed and avoided staying in any one place for any length of time. The Tete provincial military commander said that the armed bandits tried to reorganize themselves and that in August the Armed Forces destroyed two more of their camps. Brig Matias added that some war equipment which Pretoria supplied the armed bandits was captured in Tete by our forces, who also freed dozens of people who were under the control of the criminals. Various items which belonged to the people and which had been stolen by the bandits were also retrieved.

SOUTH AFRICA

Botha Reveals Meeting With Rhodesia's Muzorewa

MB202024 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1953 GMT 20 Oct 83

[By Pierre Claassen]

[Text] Knysna, Oct 20, SAPA — South Africa warned Rhodesia's black prime minister, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, not to go to London for the Lancaster House talks. This was revealed tonight by the prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, who said he had advised Bishop Muzorewa not to go and had predicted that he would be ousted as prime minister. Addressing a packed Knysna town hall, Mr Botha warned against those who compared developments in the former Rhodesia to the current constitutional development in South Africa.

"I know what happened in Rhodesia. I was minister of defence, and I know that without us they wouldn't have lasted as long as they did. Bishop Muzorewa came to power in a one man, one vote dispensation. Before he went to the United Kingdom, he came to see me."

Mr Botha said he had warned him: "They are going to cheat you; don't go." He had told the bishop he would be forced to resign and call a new election, which he would lose. Bishop Muzorewa had said he would not resign. A new constitution would have to be implemented under his premiership. "But they talked him into resigning and a new election, and he lost. He lost because the communists took over the machinery in that election," Mr Botha said.

"Don't get misled. Rhodesia can't be compared with South Africa." Rhodesia had said "no" to its first referendum question as to whether it should join South Africa. "That was their first mistake," Mr Botha said. In June 1969, the Rhodesians had to answer two questions. They voted "yes" for a republic and they voted "yes" for blacks to share political rights with whites.

"That is not our proposal. That is the proposal of Dr van Zyl Slabbert," Mr Botha said. If people came up with this story voters should "laugh in their faces, because they are telling a lie." "It is not true that Rhodesia said yes for the same principle, the same schemes and the same structures. There is a vast difference between Rhodesia and the issues we face in South Africa," the prime minister said.

SWAZILAND

Bhekimpi Condemns RSA Attack in Message to Machel

MB220541 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Text] Swaziland has condemned last Monday's bomb outrage at the office of the ANC in Maputo. In a message to President Samora Machel, the Swazi prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, said the incident was a violation of the territorial integrity of the People's Republic of Mozambique. Swaziland condemned the South African act of aggression, saying it did not help to resolve the serious problems in southern Africa and in South Africa itself. The Swazi message noted that innocent civilians had been injured in Monday's explosion. Prince Bhekimpi transmitted the condolences of the Swazi queen and regent.

Special 3-Day Parliamentary Session Dissolved

MB211721 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Text] A special session of both houses of Parliament called to debate three amendment bills presented with certificates of urgency was again dissolved today. During the 3-day session, the houses passed the sedition and subversive activities, civil service, and water amendment bills. Bidding farewell to the members of the House of Assembly, the speaker of that house, Mr J.N. Mamba, commended the parliamentarians for their good conduct during their term of office. He said he was particularly happy that a member of Parliament, Prince Maquba, had waved the remarks he had passed and apologized to his comembers of Parliament. In the same tone, the prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, congratulated the parliamentarians, saying they were impressively patriotic. He said their good conduct was [word inidistinct] by the Kingdom's workable parliamentary system, where a member of Parliament is not criticized because he belongs to an opposition party.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Receives Congratulatory Message From USSR

MB211912 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1180 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Text] The Soviet Union has expressed confidence that the relations between her and Zambia will continue to develop and gain strength for the liberation of Africa from colonialism and racism. In a congratulatory message to President Kaunda on the occasion of Zambia's 19th independence anniversary, the Soviet Union has said the relations of friendship and cooperation existing between the two parties and countries will continue to develop and gain strength for the cause of peace and social progress. The message also wishes President Kaunda good health and success in his activities and new achievements in the development of the country, as well as the strengthening of national independence for the people of Zambia.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Says Muzorewa Seeks Destabilization

AB231030 Paris AFP in English 1011 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Harare, Oct 23 (AFP) — Zimbabwe Prime Minister Robert Mugabe has accused his predecessor, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, of discussing with the Israelis on "how best to destabilize our situation." It was the second government attack on Bishop Muzorewa, who headed the 1979 transitional government of "Zimbabwe-Rhodesia" before independence and is currently touring Israel.

Bishop Muzorewa, a Methodist, has said he is there for Bible study, but has been quoted in reports from Tel Aviv as saying that Zimbabwe should establish diplomatic relations with Israel. denied by the government here, said that Zimbabwe was refusing entry to Israeli passport holders.

The Zimbabwe Government's opposition to Israel is based on Israeli actions against the Palestinians (Zimbabwe recognizes the Palestine Liberiation Organization diplomatically) and the Jewish state's military cooperation with white-ruled South Africa, Zimbabwe's unfriendly southern neighbor.

Bishop Muzorewa was quoted as saying that Zimbabwe needed Israel's advanced technology but was "very nervous" about deciding to establish relations, as Liberia and Zaire have recently done. All of Africa save South Africa, Swaziland and Malawi broke off ties with Israel after the Middle East war of 1973. Zimbabwe was white-ruled Rhodesia at that time and has never

had relations with Israel since independence under black rule in 1980.

Mr Mugabe made his criticism of Bishop Muzorewa in a speech to a crowd at Harare Railway Station last night after inaugurating a new electrified line. It followed a report in the semi-governmental newspaper *The Herald* yesterday quoting Information Minister Nathan Shamuyarira as saying that the Bishop's visit to Israel was unsurprising because Zimbabwe's war for majority rule was fought against the triumvirate of Israel, South Africa and Rhodesia. "The triumvirate has not yet been smashed. We promise you it will be very soon," he said.

Mr Mugabe's ZANU party is intensely suspicious of Bishop Muzorewa because his party, the United African National Council (UANC), led the short-lived Zimbabwe-Rhodesian government in 1979 that Mr Mugabe's and Joshua Nkomo's nationalist guerrillas saw as a front for continued white domination. In addition, ZANU reproaches Bishop Muzorewa for having accepted financial and military assistance from Pretoria during that period. South African Prime Minister Pieter Botha was quoted yesterday as saying he had met secretly with Bishop Muzorewa in 1979.

In his speech yesterday, Mr Mugabe also denounced Zimbabwe's other parliamentary opposition parties, Mr Nkomo's ZAPU and Ian Smith's white Republican Front, for what he called efforts to impede progress. ZANU accuses ZAPU of supporting rebel guerrillas in southwestern Zimbabwe, which Mr Nkomo's party denies. "Those who lead the mini-parties, Muzorewa, Nkomo and Smith, should heed my call for unity of purpose towards the goals we have set for ourselves", the prime minister said.

Mr Nkomo has flown to London for what *The Sunday Mail* newspaper said today was a two-to-three week visit to complete his autobiography. He was quoted as saying he had begun work on the book during the five months he spent in Britain in self-imposed exile earlier this year.

Further Report

MB211935 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Text] Details of relations between Bishop Abel Muzorewa and both Zionist Israel and the Pretoria fascist regime have been exposed in the two countries. REUTER news agency reports from Jerusalem that Bishop Muzorewa is in the Zionist city attending what has been referred to as a religious conference. The agency says that the bishop, who was a puppet of the oppressive Smith regime of Rhodesia, has suggested that Zimbabwe should establish diplomatic relations with Israel.

Zimbabwe and many independent African states have made it clear that they will not establish any form of relationship with the Zionist state, whose policies are identical to those of the Botha regime in South Africa. In South Africa, P.W. Botha, leader of the apartheid regime in that country, has disclosed that Muzorewa went to see him for advice before the Lancaster House talks in London. Botha says he advised Muzorewa not to go to London, because he knew he would not win an election. Botha acknowledges that Ian Smith would not have lasted as long as he did if the Pretoria regime had not assisted him.

ZAPU's Joshua Nkomo Leaves for London

MB231203 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0802 GMT 23 Oct 83

[Text] Harare, Oct 23, Harare — ZAPU leader, Mr Joshua Nkomo, flew to London last night to put the finishing touches to a book he is writing about his life. Asked why he had taken such a long time to write the book, Mr Nkomo said he had lived a crowded life and he just could not find the time. He had finally set to work during the five months he spent in London earlier this year.

"Basically, the book is a story of my humble life. Of course, the struggle comes in because I became part of it. I found my life entwined in the struggle for independence. Otherwise, it is the simple story of a little boy born and bred in Mapanenie," he said. Mr Nkomo said he would be away in London for two or three weeks. His book will be published by Curtis, Brown and Co, and will be on sale in March or April.

HERALD Editorial Questions Possible U.S. Aid Cut

MB211646 Harare The Herald in English 14 Oct 83 p 8

[Editorial: "Why Stop Now?"]

[Text] Reports from the United States that certain high-ranking officials in the Reagan administration are seeking a 50 percent cut in its $75 million aid programme for 1983-84 to Zimbabwe should be treated with the utmost caution. Citing Zimbabwe's abstention in the United Nations Security Council censure vote over the shooting down of the Korean Air Lines jumbo jet by a Soviet fighter and the resultant loss of life frankly smacks of the kind of rightwing opportunism displayed by the likes of Senator Jesse Helms and his friends.

Zimbabwe is a nonaligned state and will remain so. Our representative at the United Nations cast his vote only after consulting those member states whom he represents in the Security Council. The United States is undoubtedly the largest aid donor to Zimbabwe. Of that there can be no doubt. But its government should consider long-term relations and ignore the short-term blinkered thinking of a certain minority.

Goodwill is not developed over a short space of time. It takes the trust of two parties to achieve that special kind of understanding, and that takes time. They may disagree on occasions, but that is what life, and politics, are all about. That there are differences in political ideology between both countries is not in question. It it were, why has the United States committed millions of dollars towards our development? Those funds have been utilised with the full agreement and support of the Reagan administration to better the lot of every Zimbabwean. What kind of right-thinking person could deny that? So why stop the process now?